

**Listening skills/Communications**  
**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Advisement Activity**  
**Estimated time: 30Minutes**

**Georgia Teachers-As-Advisors Framework**

**Goal 7-3.2- Develop positive, highly-developed interpersonal skills**

- a. Identify and demonstrate effective communication skills.
- b. Recognize the benefits of interacting with others in a way that is honest, fair, helpful and respectful.

**Objectives:**

- To improve listening and speaking skills.
- To show how messages can change from one person to another.

**Materials:**

- A copy of *Joe's New Bike*

**Activity:**

1. *Say:* Welcome to advisement. I will need three volunteers who think they are good listeners. Wait for three volunteers or appoint three students-labeled volunteers # 1, # 2, # 3
2. *Ask # 2 and #3 volunteers to leave the room. Then read "Joe's New Bike" to the whole group, including volunteer # 1.*
3. *Ask #2 and #3 volunteers to return to the classroom.* Now, I would like for volunteer # 1 to retell the story from memory to volunteer # 2. Then volunteer #2 to retell the story to Volunteer # 3 from memory. Then volunteer # 3 will retell the story to the whole group.
4. *Ask the following questions for discussion:*
  - "What happened to the information as it was passed along?"
  - "Was anything important left out?"
  - "How did that affect the story?"
  - "What are rumors?"
  - "What happens when a rumor is passed from one person to another?"

Remind the students that, as mediators, they will be involved in situations that include rumors. It is important to remind the disputants that rumors are not reliable ways to obtain information.

5. *Say:* Good listening skills are important skills for all of us to have. Unfortunately we don't practice those skills enough. Communications is the number 1 skill future employers will look for. *Write COMMUNICATIONS on the board. Then write under COMMUNICATIONS: reading, speaking, writing, and listening.* Listening is part of communicating. So remember to practice being a good listener and not jump to conclusions until you have heard all the facts. See you next time and have a "good listening" day!

**Joe's New Bike Story**

Joe finally had enough money to buy the Cannondale Mountain Bike he had been admiring in the window of the Trail Shop for the past six weeks. It was a lot of money - \$375.00 - but Joe had been saving his paper-route earnings for two years.

Joe beamed with pride as he raced home down Pine Avenue past Springvale School, where a group of his friends were playing soccer in the field.

Andrew, his best friend, hurried over to admire the new bike. He asked Joe if he could try the bike and Joe, reluctantly, said he could take it around the block.

When Andrew did not return after 10 minutes, Joe began to worry. He ran to the corner where he could see Andrew, in the distance, trying to straighten out the front rim. Three other boys were gathered around. Joe raced to where Andrew was bent over the bike and started yelling at his friend, only to look up and see his beautiful new bike safely resting against a fence. Andrew grinned as he explained that he had stopped to help Craig who had fallen and damaged his bike.