

Silent Circulation Cards

Silent Circulation Cards are a non-verbal way to keep kids and classes on task during independent work.

❖ How It Works

Create simple visuals to represent the things you say the most while circulating around your room. Carry them with you and, as necessary, show one to a student or group, wait for them to comply, and then walk away. Don't speak. Let the image speak for you and watch the magic happen!

❖ Why It Works

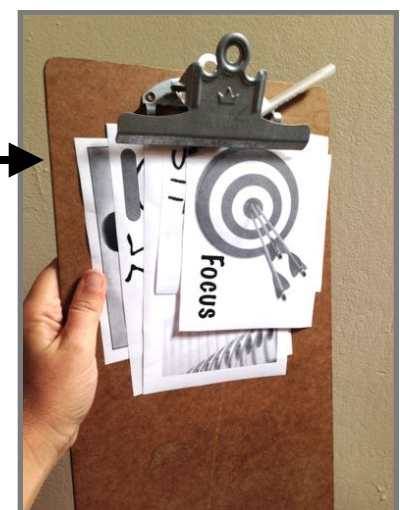
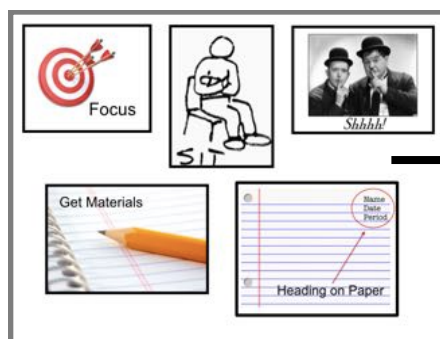
Kids hear our voices too much and as a result are often tuning us out. Visual techniques, like silent circulation cards, express clearly what we need kids to do without allowing them to ignore us and without inviting them to challenge us. When we give verbal directives we invite verbal responses. But non-verbal directives invite only compliance, without room for argument or debate. In addition, using images to communicate is initially novel, and novelty catches and holds attention. When the novelty has worn off, you can recapture it by changing the images. But even if you choose not to, the visuals will continue to clearly communicate your expectations in way that avoids confrontation.

❖ Three Examples/Variations

Small images carried on a key ring or lanyard



Large images carried on a clipboard or in a folder



Digital images carried on an iPad