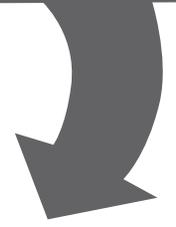




~~Noisy~~ ACTIVE Learning



“Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth”
(Psalm 100:1).

- How does a shout for joy sound?
- Have you ever let children shout to the Lord?
- How is this like or unlike what happens in a classroom of active children?

▼ Training Session

Do you get anxious with a noisy classroom? Maybe you're worried parents and other adults will think of your kids as rambunctious. Or as kids get louder, you're afraid they'll progress into an out-of-control army.

There's good news: Noisy learning can actually be *active* learning! Think of it as noise with a purpose.

There are four traits of active learning that can lead to a noisy (in a good way) classroom.

- **Active learning involves everyone.** Each child experiences the activity. Everyone has a part in the drama. No one's left out of a game—that means no one loses. It's participatory.
- **Active learning's an adventure.** It makes children (and even teachers) wonder what'll happen next. It's that edge-of-the-seat anticipation. Sure it's risky...but that's the point! Take risks. Kids may get loud. You may not know what'll happen. But that's the beauty of it. It's not scripted.

- **Active learning evokes an emotional response.**

Laughter. Anxiety. Frustration. Let your kids experience these emotions.

- **Active learning is focused through debriefing.**

Pull the whole experience together. Ask open-ended questions—apply the experience to Scripture and to life.

Plug these characteristics into a formula. What do you get? Noise. This is when what seems like a lesson out of control is really a great teacher at work! Kids are engaged. They're having fun. Don't be afraid of that.

But maybe the teacher who shares a partition with you *is* afraid of that. Try these ideas so you don't turn other teachers against you in a noise war.

- Ask other classes in earshot if they mind your class being loud for about 10 minutes. Then respect that time frame.
- Hold the noisy part of your class outside or in the gym.
- Suggest to your kids that they see how long they can whisper their joy.

And about your fear of losing control: With active learning, you won't. Use a creative noisemaker to help with that. Get a train whistle. Play music as kids work, then turn it off when it's time to focus their attention somewhere else. When kids are engaged, they're focused.





Take this training deeper as you think over these questions:

- Out-of-control or active learning? Which classroom do you feel like you have?
- Why is active learning noisy?
- What will you implement in your classroom to make it a little more active?

▼ Journal

Lord, I want to move into active learning in my classroom. Here are my fears. . .

Picture your students learning right now! What does it look like? You can make that picture a permanent feature in your classroom.

▼ Application

Go to your library. Sit in a corner with your eyes closed. Just listen for five minutes. What do you learn?

Now go to a busy place—a supermarket, airport, subway station, or coffee shop. Do the same thing. What do you learn?

Where did you learn the most? Why? When should your classroom be quiet? When should it be noisy?