

Red Stoplight Personal Space Game

Target age group: Preschool through second grade, special education classroom or regular classroom

Objective: To reinforce the concept of appropriate personal space.

Materials needed:

- One red stoplight card for each child

Instructional strategy:

1. Explain the concept of personal space to the group. It may help to clearly define what is appropriate space, typically about two feet in any direction. Talk about how different people have different needs when it comes to personal space.
2. Give each child two cards, one representing a red stoplight and the other a green stoplight.
3. Tell the kids that when you say "Go," they are to move about freely. Whenever anyone gets too close to them, they are to hold up their red stoplight. The other child should then freeze.
4. When you see a child holding up his or her stoplight, go over and investigate. Talk about the amount of personal space needed by that child.

Accommodations for nonverbal children: This game does not rely on verbal abilities, but children with lower functioning levels may require the assistance of a paraprofessional.