

## LESS is More – Teacher Commentary Notes

### Listen

Before you can speak a language, you must be able to understand the language you hear. Focus your attention on listening. Listen closely. Learn to sustain your attention span. Use other senses and intelligences to help you understand and remember what you are hearing. Watch for visual cues. Move your body. Do the actions, gestures or sign language. Draw pictures or symbols. Write the words. Say the words in chants or rhythms.

Be nice

*Be nice to yourself.*

Choose to do whatever it takes to help you learn. Learn as much as you can. Choose to be successful.

*Be nice to others.*

Help others stay focused on learning. Listen to what others have to say. Be patient. Be helpful when others don't understand. Say encouraging things. Show respect.

Everyone learns in different ways and at different rates.

Golden rule: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

### Enjoy

“No pain, no gain” is a myth. Learning is not painful. It is a pleasant experience.

“What we learn with pleasure, we never forget”. Alfred Mercier

“That which anyone has been long learning unwillingly, he unlearns with proportional eagerness and haste.” William Hazlitt, English writer

### Show that you get it

Participate mentally and physically. This helps you to sustain your attention span. The teacher needs this feedback. The teacher is a teacher, not a mind reader. The teacher needs to know whether to slow down, to speed up, to repeat for more practice or to go on to new information, to continue to practice more in a group or to let you practice on your own... It is very difficult to teach garden statues to speak.

### Show when you don't

Help yourself understand everything. Be curious. Ask questions. Remember, the teacher is a teacher, not a mind reader. Use many resources to find information. Where can you find answers to questions? Help the teacher teach you. Learn to teach yourself. Learn to teach others. When you help others learn, you take what you know and learn it to a deeper, more meaningful level. Everybody wins.