



## Lockdown Drill Language For Younger Students

The following language can be used with younger students to reduce anxiety and fear:

I need to give you some important instructions and I need your full, quiet attention.

*Today we are going to practice another safety drill, just as we practice fire drills and severe weather drills. Today's drill will be a Lockdown or Shelter In Place drill. A Lockdown Drill means that no one goes in or comes out of the school, we clear the hallway of all the students, lock the doors, and shelter ourselves just in our classroom and sometimes away from doors and windows.*

*When we begin this lockdown drill, this is what we will do:*

- 1. You must stop talking immediately and be **totally** quiet. Don't even whisper. Listen for my instructions.*
- 2. I will go to the door, bring in any students or teachers who are in the hallway near our door, and then I will lock it.*
- 3. I will give you the signal and you will all come, quietly, without running or pushing, to this space by our open closet doors [or whatever spot in your room is out of view from the hallway window].*
- 4. We will all shelter ourselves out of sight from all windows including the hallway window.*
- 5. Everyone will remain quiet and calm and we will stay in place until we get the signal that we can go back to our seats. [Teachers may suggest bringing a book to read while we wait for the end of the drill.]*

***If you are in another classroom***, you will follow the same directions, going to the shelter spot the teacher points out.

***If you are in the hallway*** when the drill is called, you should go **to the very nearest classroom**, no matter whose classroom it is, because the goal is to clear the hallway and bring everyone into rooms as quickly as possible. Any classroom is good! And follow the same rules there: Quiet, Calm, Shelter where the teacher directs. After the drill, you will be allowed to come back to our classroom.

*When we practice drills, we are asked to do things that we don't ordinarily do in school, like sometimes crouch down together in the hallways, behind desks or doors, or go into other classrooms. Doing this kind of thing is so different, we can sometimes feel and act silly. It is **very important** that none of us acts silly or pretends about silly or even scary things. This is an important safety drill and it is a time to be your very best selves. Our respectful, calm behavior can help others around us to be calm and practice this correctly.*

# Discussion Guidelines

If students ask the purpose of this drill:

The purpose of this drill is to practice clearing the hallways and sheltering us in safe places.

If students ask is this because there might be a school shooter:

The discussion could be something like “I know there’s always a chance that a drill like this will make us think about scary things. It’s important to know that all schools everywhere are practicing drills like this and the chances that we would really have to ever use this in a real lockdown are very, very small.”

Other specific ways to frame lockdown drills:

- We might need to use this for a chemical spill – if a truck carrying chemicals turned over and was leaking dangerous fumes.
- We have used a lockdown once when we were missing a student who was upset and was trying to hide in the school.
- A couple of times we have had people in the building who didn’t sign in at the office and weren’t wearing a staff badge or a visitor’s sticker. It makes sense to bring all the students in, close the doors and find the people.
- Once it was a father who forgot to sign in at the office and went straight to his daughter’s classroom to talk with the teacher about his daughter not doing her homework.
- Another time, the strangers turned out to be high school kids who came into the building and disappeared. We found them! They were a group of runners out exercising and they just came in to use our bathroom!

If someone mentions a school shooter:

We might have heard of those on the news but there are millions of schools open every day all over the world where there has never been a problem and we have done lots of things to keep our school safe as possible. This is one of those.

Remember, we win points for being QUIET!