**ACTIVITY 1:** (younger students)

**TEACHER SAYS**: **A Listening Game that Teaches Kids to Follow Directions**

(from *Coffee Cups and Crayons*)

How to Play *Teacher Says!*

1.  Gather a bunch of school supplies and set in the middle of the room to use as props.

2.  Pick one child to be the first “student” and explain how to play.

3.  Have the adult be the “teacher” at first until the kids understand the game.  Give the “student” a series of 2-4 commands, such as jump two times, put on the backpack, and touch your nose.  Start at whatever stage of following directions you think your child is at.  You can even say things like hold the pencil in your left hand to add another dimension to it.

4.  As you play, *model good listening strategies*.  Show how to look at the speaker when they are talking, repeat the directions to yourself, don’t start until you hear all of the instructions, and picture what you are going to do in your mind to help you remember.

4.  Continue to take turns with all the kids that are playing. The great thing about this game is that you can easily modify the directions for different age and ability levels.  Once the kids understand the game, they can take a turn being the “teacher”.