

LISTEN TO YOUR TEACHER: HEAR THEIR HEART

by:

Nora A. Eludo

Master Teacher I, Alauli Elementary School

Behind every lesson taught, every paper checked, every patient explanation, and every firm reminder is something deeper than words—it's a teacher's heart speaking. Often, students hear instructions, reminders, and academic expectations. But if they truly listen—not just with their ears, but with their hearts—they'll discover something more: care, compassion, and a sincere desire to see them grow, not just as learners, but as people.

Teachers don't choose this profession for applause or riches. They step into classrooms because they believe in the power of education to open minds, to change lives, and to build a better future. Every day, they carry more than lesson plans and grades—they carry dreams. Dreams that each student will find their strength, chase their purpose, and become a person of value to the community and the world.

Teachers mold values, build confidence, and nurture the kind of discipline that lasts a lifetime. They are silent architects of character.

When a teacher raises their voice or insists on effort, it's not out of frustration—it's out of belief. Belief that a student can do more, be more, and reach further. They challenge their students because they see potential that hasn't yet been realized. They aren't just teaching facts or solving equations—they're shaping future leaders, neighbors, citizens, and kind human beings.

A caring teacher doesn't just teach; they build trust, nurture growth, and walk with their students through success and failure. That care is not always loud—it often

shows in small gestures: staying after class to help, offering encouragement after a mistake, or simply remembering a student's story.

To listen to your teacher is to recognize that their guidance comes from a place of love. They want more than your academic success—they want your happiness, your integrity, your strength. They want you to be the best student you can be, yes—but also the best friend, the best citizen, the best version of yourself.

And when students learn to listen with intention—with their hearts as much as their minds—they discover one of life's most powerful truths: someone believes in them. Someone is standing in their corner, cheering them on, and quietly whispering, "You can."

It is their heart—their sincerity, dedication, and quiet strength—that truly makes a difference.

In the end, listening to your teacher is more than obeying instructions. It is understanding the heart behind the words. It is knowing that your teacher wants all the best for you—not for praise or recognition, but because they care. Because when you rise, when you become your best, you become a light for others—and that is the most meaningful reward a teacher could ever hope for.

References:

Hattie, J. (2009). *Visible Learning: A Synthesis of Over 800 Meta-Analyses Relating to Achievement*. Routledge.

Noddings, N. (2005). *The Challenge to Care in Schools: An Alternative Approach to Education* (2nd ed.). Teachers College Press.

Palmer, P. J. (1998). The Courage to Teach: Exploring the Inner Landscape of a Teacher's Life. Jossey-Bass.