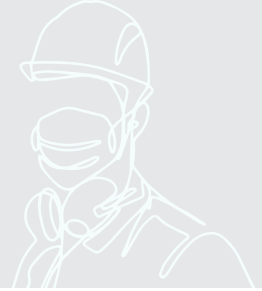


# TOOLBOX TALK

## HOW TO LISTEN



Whether you know someone who is battling with thoughts of self-harm or suicide or not, active listening is a skill you can turn into a habit so those around you feel confident that what they tell you is heard and valued. Active listening is more than just hearing someone speak; it requires attention, concentration and listening with your senses.

### **BY THE NUMBERS**

- In 2022, suicide was the **eleventh leading cause of death overall in the United States, claiming the lives of over 49,400 people.**
- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, **the suicide rate is greater than the general population for those employed in the construction industry.**
- Psychology research highlights how **positive social interactions increase our personal well-being and provide greater life satisfaction.**

### **WHY IT MATTERS**

Active listening helps build trust and empathy between people. By seeking to understand and empathize rather than reply or solve, the other person can feel inspired to heal from their own mental health challenges. Active listening is an effective way to provide emotional support and validation.

### **GOOD TO KNOW**

- **Minimize distractions.** Not only is it important to put down your phone when actively listening, it is also important to quiet your inner dialogue – an intangible distraction.
- **Reflect what you hear.** Without interrupting to give advice or finish someone's sentences, paraphrase what they have told you. For example, saying "I'm hearing that you're having a hard time with this situation," is a way to reflect on what you have heard and provide validation.
- **Focus on nonverbal communication.** Nod and make eye contact to show that you care when someone opens up to you. Your body language should indicate that you are not passing judgment, and they can speak freely.



CONSTRUCTION SUICIDE  
PREVENTION WEEK

Call, text or chat **988** for the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline.

Find resources at **[ConstructionSuicidePrevention.com](https://www.construction-suicide-prevention.com)**.