**3 Question Drill (Activity)**

*This is an easy activity that can be used for a child who struggles to initiate questions. The aim is not to have a “meaningful conversation” - it is simply to have practice asking questions on a given topic.*

***How is this done?***

Take a stack of picture vocabulary cards and deal out five per player. Place them face down. The first person turns over his/her card, turns to another player and asks three questions about that topic. For example, if the child turns over a picture of ice cream, he might ask his peer the following questions: Do you like ice cream? What is your favorite flavor? Do you like it in a cone or in a dish? Once the first player is done, the person to the left does the same. When all of the cards have been turned face up, the game is done.

**Comment + Question Drill (Activity)**

*This is an easy activity that can be used to help children use comments and questions in a drill format.*

***How is this done?***

Write a list of 5 sentences and then read them out one at a time to the child. At the easiest level, the child will make a comment that matches your sentence. Once they are making good comment connections, you can have them make a comment and then add a follow up question. For example, if you were to say, “I’m going camping next weekend!”, a good comment-question connection might be, “That’s cool! Where are you going?”

**Chitchat Shuffle (Activity)**

*This is an easy activity to help children classify words/phrases/sentences that are commonly used in chitchat. For example, we tend to use greetings (i.e. Morning), conversation starters (i.e. How are you?), conversation stoppers (i.e. Well, I’d better get going.) and farewells (i.e. Bye for now).*

***How is this done?***

Write some examples of the above conversation features onto sentence strips and place them face down on the table. Make four category labels entitled: Greetings, Starter Questions, Closing Comments and Farewells. Have the children turn over a sentence strip, read it and then put it under the appropriate heading. If you are using the CMC program, the sentence strips can be put on the conversation stones.

**Dice and Men (Activity)**

*This is an alternative to the Chitchat Shuffle.*

***How to do this?***

All you need is a generic board game, men and some dice. Play the game as you normally would by rolling the dice and moving the men in the intended game format. However, when it is the child’s turn, ask him/her to come up with some examples of conversational features. For example, if the child rolls a three, you might say “Tell me three ways that we say hello”, or “Tell me three different comments you might say if your friend got a new bike”.

**Discover Me + Discover You (Activity)**

*Learning about others can be amazing! By taking a few moments to ask other people questions, we can gain a better understanding of who they are and what is important to them. Who knows what we might learn – Simply by asking a question!*

***How to do this?***

Write up some questions in an interview format. Have the children sit in pairs and go through the questions together. They can later report back to the group what they learned about each other.

If you are using the CMC program, this activity will be provided for you in either the Learn About Me + Learn About You worksheet and/or the WH Question Cards activity.

The following are some questions for us to use for today:

1. Who is one of your favorite people to be with? Why?

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1. What is one of your favorite things to do on a rainy day? Why?

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1. If you could be meet anyone in the world, who would it be? Why?

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1. If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go? Why?

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**Conversation Pix n Scripts (Activity)**

*A great way to hone our ability to read people and situations is through observation. A convenient way to do this is to simply look at pictures of people having conversations. There are many options of images available online. This is a fantastic “brain gymnastics” activity to do daily as a warm-up for the conversation lesson!*

***How to do this?***

Determine what type of conversation you want the child to observe. For example, you might look for images of people greeting each other, having chitchat, or others deeply engaged in a serious conversation. Make sure to consider the level of awareness the child will have in comprehending the pictures. For example, some children will look at photo’s where the facial expressions (i.e. happy, sad, excited) are easy to interpret. The more skilled child may look at photo’’s where the emotions may be mixed (i.e. happy and yet sad).

If you are using the CMC program, this activity is known as Reading Conversation Recipe’s & Scripts. Ask the child probing questions about the picture, such as:

* What are these people doing?
* Where are they? How can you tell?
* What time of day is it? How can you tell?
* Do you think these people know each other? How can you tell?
* What do you think they might be thinking? How can you tell?
* How do you think they might be feeling? How can you tell?
* How would you feel in this situation? What might you say?

This activity has the added benefit of working on many skills such as: Making/explaining inferences, stating /explaining the cause of a problem, stating/explaining the solution for the problem, making/explaining predictions, imagining themselves in the same situation, imagining the conversational script that might be transpiring, imagining the feelings that others might be having.

**Topic Inventory**

***How to do this?***

This is a great Think-Pair-Share activity to do in a classroom. Have the fill in their preferred answers for the categories below. Then have them work in pairs as they discuss the topics that they have that are unique or shared. The unique topics will go in the outer pars of the circle and the shared topics will go in the overlapping part of the circle. Then they can report back to the class what topics that they have in common. The Conversation Coach can then remind them that these are topics that they can enjoy in future conversations.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| SUBJECT | FAVORITE (S) |
| EXAMPLE: Sports | Soccer |
| Animals |  |
| Holiday |  |
| Hobbies |  |
| Sports |  |
| Snack foods … |  |



*How many topics do you share with your friend?*

*Write the answer here: \_\_\_\_\_/10*