



BRINGING ACTIVE LEARNING HOME



*Workshops for Preschool
Parents*



TALKING WITH YOUR CHILD



OBJECTIVES

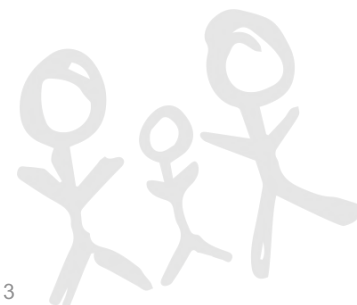
You will

- Experience conversation strategies that either promote or inhibit conversation.
- Learn how to use open-ended questions and observations in conversations with your child.
- Learn how conversing with your child supports his or her social and emotional development.





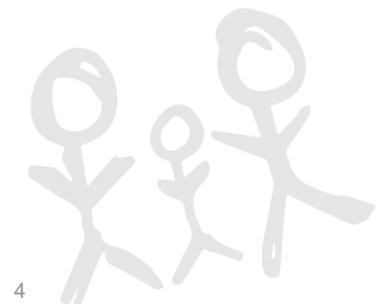
CONVERSATION ROLE PLAY





LOOK WHO'S TALKING

- Does this type of conversation sound familiar?
- Who is in control of the conversation?
- Who is doing the thinking?





A CLOSED-ENDED QUESTION

- Can often be answered with “yes” or “no.”
- Has a correct answer.
- Requires little language or thinking to answer.
- Is one for which, typically, the questioner already knows the answers.





EXAMPLES OF CLOSED-ENDED QUESTIONS

- Did you have a good day at school?
- What color is that?
- How old are you?
- Did you like the story?

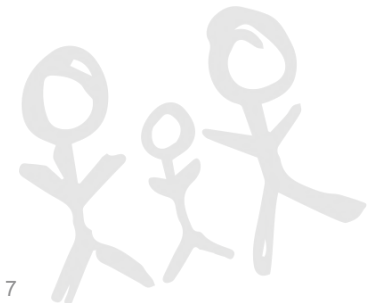




CONVERSATION 1: MY FAVORITE RESTAURANT

Ask these questions to find out about your partner's favorite restaurant:

1. What is the name of your favorite restaurant?
2. What kind of food does it offer?
3. What do you like to order?
4. Is the service good?
5. Is it expensive?





OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS

- Have more than one right answer.
- Involve more thought and language from your child. Examples:
 - What did you like about the story?
 - How did you do that?
 - What made the birthday party so much fun?
- Show you are interested in your child's experiences and ideas.





CONVERSATION 2: THE LOTTERY

Ask these questions to find out what your partner would do if he or she won the lottery:

1. What would you do if you won the lottery?
2. How did you come up with that idea?





DOES THIS SOUND FAMILIAR?

“What did
you do at
school
today?”

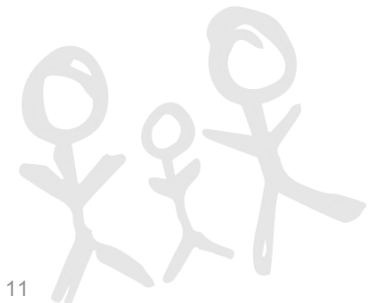
“Nothing.”





OBSERVATIONS

- Making an observation is simply saying what you see (e.g., “I see there is paint on your hands”).
- Observations give children the choice of when and how to respond.
- Observations show children that you are paying attention to them and the things that are important to them.





OBSERVATIONS

Examples:

“I see there is a picture in your cubby.”

“I saw lots of kids playing on the climber.”

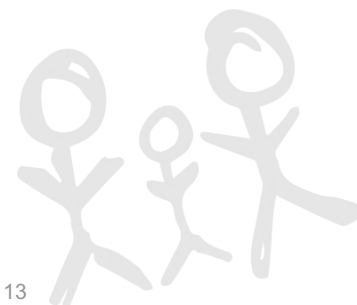
“I notice you have blue marker on your fingers.”

“I noticed that it was raining at outside time today.”





PRACTICE OBSERVATION





TIPS FOR TALKING WITH YOUR CHILD

- Get down on your child's physical level.
- Focus on the message your child is communicating rather than on grammar or pronunciation.
- Allow time for your child to organize his or her thoughts.
- Ask open-ended questions, for example, "What did you like about the story?"
- Make an observation: "I see you are making something with Legos."





TALKING POINTS

- Ask your child's teacher to tell you one or two things your child did that day.
- Look on the teacher's lesson plan for an activity that you could talk about.
- Comment on what your child brings home from school.
- Comment on what you saw your child doing when you picked him or her up at the end of the day.
- Comment on what you saw other children doing.

