

Chatter Pack

Conversation skills
worksheet

Free resource

Conversation skills worksheet

Discuss and make a plan

Some children find starting and continuing conversations very tricky. Others might dominate conversations, or they might struggle to identifying appropriate topics in relation to the situation or the person they are speaking to.

Use the questions below to help uncover potential difficulties with conversation skills and more importantly, to identify possible solutions.

Once you have this information, make a plan of which skills you are going to practice, how, with who and when. This practice could be vital to support generalisation of skills.

Once you have identified a few conversation skills for the child to practice, first do so within a one to one situation, then, when they are ready to progress, set up a situation with a supportive person who is aware of their needs and who understands how to support them to achieve.

Once the child has practiced these skills within 'safe' environments, discuss what worked and why, what didn't work, why and what they could try next time. Once you have this information, you can update the plan and support them to continue to progress

Some children might need skills to be built up slowly, so it might be more appropriate to work on one conversation skill at a time.

Questions to help prompt discussion

Should I talk to everyone about my interests?

Who can I talk to about my interests?

When should I talk to people about my interests?

What types of problems are there?

Who should I talk to about different types of problems?

When should I talk to people about different types of problems?

Should I talk to anyone about private things?

Who can I talk to about different types of private things?

When should I talk to people about private things?

Final Tips

If appropriate, try giving the child sentence starters or conversation starters to use.

Try to avoid explaining complex rules of interactions such as manners, social niceties or body language at this stage.

Discuss physical proximity and personal space. Some children and young people might need an explicit rule to follow.

Discuss details such as volume and speed of speech and how they might impact a listener's understanding.

If eye contact is difficult, avoid directing them to use it. Perhaps suggest they look towards the person, at their chin or at their ear.



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