



Color Coding System

Conversations should have a sense of order. For example, you typically start with a greeting (i.e. “Hello”) followed by a comment or question to engage your conversation partner into a dialogue (i.e. “How are you?”). If you have the time and the desire to keep the conversation going, you will make use of questions, comments (i.e. “Wow, that’s awesome!”), and topic changing phrases (i.e. “Oh, by the way...”) as you shift the conversation onto new topics. When the conversation is about to end, you will likely indicate this with a comment (i.e. “Nice talking with you”) just before you give your final farewell (i.e. “Goodbye”).

The *Color My Conversation* Color Coding System was developed to emphasize the functions of these conversational features. Along with the color coding system, movement is incorporated into some of the lesson activities. The children will physically walk through a conversation while stepping on color coded markers (i.e. floor pads in the shape of garden stones) which make up the Conversation Path. These stone markers will be used to help the children remember the conversational features that are required at each part of the conversation.

The following is a brief description of the Conversation Path colors and their function:

YELLOW - This color represents the Greeting (i.e. “Hello”) and the Farewell (i.e. “Goodbye”). This color was selected because it draws the eye and is a lively color that is often associated with a sense of well-being.

GREEN - This color represents the Conversation Starter. This color was selected, because green is often associated with the word “go.” The Conversation Starters are the opening questions/comments that we make to engage a person into dialogue (i.e. “How are you?” “How is the family?”, etc.). Green is also considered to be a safe and calming color.

BLUE - This color represents the Topics of Conversation. It is in this section where the body of a conversation takes place (i.e. discussing topics of interest). Blue is also considered to be a color that stimulates thoughts and ideas.

RED - This color represents the Conversation Stopper. This color was selected, because it often represents the word “stop”. The Conversation Stoppers are the final comments we make before we say our farewells. Red is also considered to be a color that draws attention quickly but does not hold onto it for long.