

MUNCHKIN MAN'S MAGNIFICENT MANIPULABLES

BE A 'FOS Finder'

FACTS, OPINIONS AND STORIES! We may use all of them in our conversations with our friends. Knowing how to use them well is important if we want to become great conversationalists! Just like a chemist who mixes and measures chemicals, a skilled conversationalist is someone who knows how to mix the right combination of facts, opinions and stories into their conversations with others. Here are some things to consider about these three conversation tools:

FACTS are fantastic, especially when it comes to our schoolwork! They can be interesting and fun to think about! But when we're with our friends, we don't want to mix too many of them into our conversations, because our conversation partner might find them to be a little boring!

OPINIONS are awesome, especially in a lively debate! It's good to be able to think for ourselves and form our own opinions based on how we feel! But when we're with our friends, we want to think about what opinions we will add into our conversations. Some opinions are not meant to be spoken, because they might hurt or offend others. If we take the time to think before we speak, we can decide which opinions to keep to ourselves and which ones to share with our friends!

STORIES are sensational! *PEOPLE LOVE STORIES!* They are great to listen to and great to tell when we are having conversations with others! However, we still need to think before we speak by asking ourselves some questions. For example: *Is this story going to be of interest to my friend? Does my friend have the time for me to tell it?*

We can all become better conversationalists when we take the time to realize that we have information stored in our brains that we can use in our conversations with others. By asking ourselves some questions using the Bubble Connections strategy, we may find that we have a lot to say on many more topics than what we might think. In Munchkin Man's Magnificent Manipulables, we're going to practice exercising our brains to become magnificent...

FOS Finders

In Munchkin Man's Magnificent Manipulables, your goal is to explore your brain to locate the facts, opinions and stories that are being stored there. Your second goal is to assess how this information could be mixed into conversations with your friends. All you will need for this activity is your flexible thinking mind, a pencil and your topic cards. Here's what you can do!

1. Your Conversation Coach will place a topic card face up onto the TOPICS section of the board game and will tell you what the topic is going to be. *For example, if the picture is of the Eiffel Tower, your coach may choose the topic of famous monuments or possibly the city of Paris.*
2. Now think. Use your Bubble Connections to ask yourself some questions about this topic.
3. Can you think of any facts? If so, write or draw them into the FACTS beaker on your activity sheet.
4. Can you think of any opinions? If so, write or draw them into the OPINIONS beaker on your activity sheet.

5. Can you think of any stories? If so, write or draw them into the STORIES beaker on your activity sheet. Remember that stories can come in a variety of ways.
For example, they may be about a movie you saw, a book you read, a story someone else told or a personal story that you experienced.
6. Now think about and explain how this information could be used in your conversations with your friends.

Don't know what to say? 'Use your FOS Formula!'

ATTENTION CONVERSATION COACH:

- This activity can be introduced in Lesson Ten.
- This activity can be done with 2 or more individuals. In a small group or classroom setting, the other children will observe one child go through the exercise independently with the Conversation Coach. The rest of the class will then discuss what FOS information that they might have on the given topic.
- The Conversation Coach should provide multiple examples before asking a child to do this activity. During the first exercise, select the child who has the stronger language skills and provide ample coaching during the initial stages of strategy implementation.
- This activity is an isolated exercise to help the children learn how to explore information that they possess on a variety of topics. The goal is to provide a strategy to help them improve their confidence and ability to access information that they can then use within naturally occurring social situations.
- Once the children become skilled at this activity, the Conversation Coach can then explain that other people have information in their brains (i.e. facts, opinions and stories). The way that we can access this information is by using the Bubble Connections strategy with our conversation partners. By being an 'Askers of the Questions' and a good 'Comment Maker,' we can have fantastic conversations with others even though we may have little knowledge or interest on a given topic.
- This activity might be considered as a good springboard exercise to stimulate thought on selected topics prior to playing the Color My Conversation game.

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