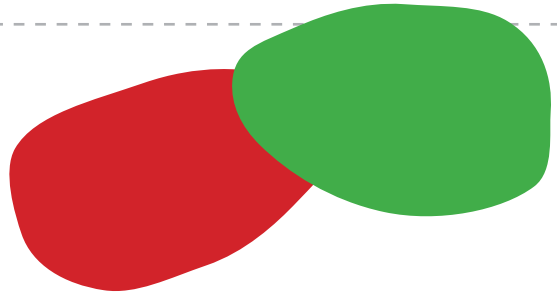


HOW TO PRACTICE SHORT CONVERSATIONS AT HOME

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Scissors
- Yellow, green and red construction paper
- Black felt pen
- Ball



1. Cut out one green and one red Conversation stone to add to your yellow stones on the Conversation Path.
2. On the green stone, draw a question mark (or write the words “Conversation Starter”) in the center of the stone. Divide the stone into quadrants, and write four examples of Conversation Starters in the spaces created. Some examples of Conversation Starters might include the following: i.e. How are you? How is the family? What’s new? What have you been up to lately? What do you think of all this great weather we’ve been having?
3. On the red stone, draw a stop sign (or write the words “Conversation Stopper”) in the center of the stone. Divide the stone into quadrants, and write four examples of Conversation Stoppers in the spaces created. Some examples of Conversation Stoppers might include the following: Well, it’s been great to see you! Nice chatting with you! Well, I’d better be on my way.
4. Place the stones on the floor in the following order = yellow – green – red – yellow. Now you are ready to have your Short Conversation.
5. Take your ball, and stand beside the Hello stone. Toss the ball to your child as you say one of the greetings. Your child will throw the ball back to you as he/she responds to your greeting. Now step beside the Conversation Starter stone. Toss the ball back to your child as you ask him/her some questions. You and your child may toss the ball back and forth as you ask/ answer a couple of these questions. Now step beside the Conversation Stopper stone. Toss the ball back to your child as you add a final comment. Your child will throw the ball back to you as he/she responds to your comment. Then step beside the Goodbye stone, and say a farewell. Your child will throw the ball back to you as he/she responds to your farewell.
6. Now you can reverse the roles and let your child start the Short Conversation with you.