

Date: _____

Dear Parent(s):

In this lesson, your child will be learning about the Long Conversation. There are no time limits with this type of conversation. Some of the longest recorded conversations have lasted over a period of days. One could only imagine how many topics the individuals must have covered in that length of time.

Think of the last conversation that you had with an old friend. It likely started off with a greeting and then an opening question such as, "How are you?". From there, you and your conversation partner likely discussed various topics of interest (i.e. family, current events, shared interests). In order to keep the conversation going, you probably took turns asking questions and making comments. If one of you decided to change the topic, it is likely that you said something to inform your conversation partner of the change (i.e. "On a different note...") so that he/she could adjust accordingly. When the conversation was about to end, you and your friend likely made some final comments (i.e. "Well, it's been great catching up with you!") and then said your farewells.

This level of conversation is the ultimate goal of the CMC program. However, when the Long Conversation is first introduced, only the basic elements will be taught to the children. They will include: The Greeting (i.e. "hello"), the Conversation Starter (i.e. opening question or comment), the Topics of Conversation (i.e. topics of interest), the Conversation Stopper (i.e. a final comment to wind the conversation down), and the Farewell (i.e. "goodbye"). The Topics of Conversation is where the children will practice discussing topics that are of interest to them or their peers (i.e. sports, hobbies, etc.).

HOME SUGGESTION:

Ask your child to tell you three places where a Long Conversation can be used. Be purposeful in pointing out to your child where a Long Conversation occurs in your daily living (i.e. having a Long Conversation around the dinner table).

Additional Suggestions:

Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,