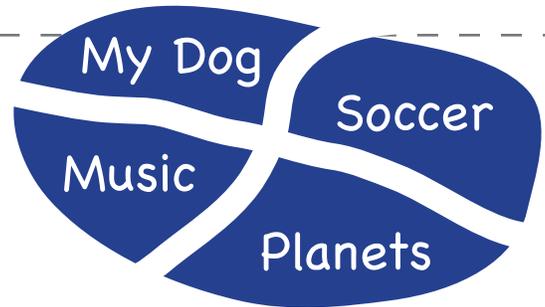


HOW TO PRACTICE LONG CONVERSATIONS AT HOME



Materials needed:

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

1. Cut out one blue Conversation stone to add to the rest of your Conversation Path.
2. Now tear the blue stone into four even pieces. Between you and your child, discuss four possible Topics (i.e. things that you would like to talk about), and then either write them down or draw a picture of them on the little blue stones.
3. Next, place them on the floor in the middle of the path. The sequence should be as follows = yellow stone – green stone – blue stones – red stone – yellow stone. Now you are ready to have your Long Conversation.
4. Take your ball, and stand beside the Hello stone. Toss the ball to your child as you say one of the greetings. (i.e. Morning!). 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 pick up one of the Topic cards, and initiate a brief conversation on that topic with your child. Remember to keep passing the ball back and forth as you take turns speaking. Continue picking up the pieces and engaging in conversations on the topics selected. When you are done, 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 (i.e. Well, I'd better run but its been nice chatting with you!). Then step beside the Goodbye stone, and say a farewell (i.e. Bye for now!). Your child will throw the ball back to you as he/she responds to your farewell.
5. Now you can reverse the roles and let your child start the Long Conversation with you.