

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Parent(s):

Your child has now completed the Beginner's Level of the *COLOR MY CONVERSATION* program. This level has focused on three basic conversations (i.e. the Yellow Conversation, the Short Conversation, and the Long Conversation).

In the Intermediate Level, your child will be learning about some specific features to enhance their ability to engage in longer conversations. These features include the following:

1. **QUESTIONS:** We ask people questions when we have conversations. Why do we do this? Firstly, we do it to show that we are interested in what our conversation partner is saying. Thus, questions serve a social function. Secondly, we ask questions to gain information (i.e. getting directions). Therefore, questions serve a practical function. They help us meet our needs. In these lessons, the children will be learning how to use questions effectively to engage others in conversation.
2. **COMMENTS:** We make comments when we are having a conversation. They may include listening noises (i.e. hum, ooh), words (i.e. Wow!), and phrases (i.e. That's too bad!). Comments serve a social function. They show that we are listening to our conversation partner and that we care about what they are saying. In this lesson, the children will be learning how to use comments effectively to engage others in conversation.
3. **TOPIC CHANGERS:** We use words and phrases to let our conversation partner know when we are going to switch to a new topic. When topic changers are used effectively, it is highly unlikely that our conversation partner will notice the transition. On the other hand, when topic changers are not used appropriately, our conversation partner may feel confused. In this lesson, the children will learn how to use topic changers effectively to engage others in conversation.

In the Intermediate Level, the children will also be learning about how our feelings and emotions can affect our conversations. In order to be adept conversationalists, it is important for us to be aware of our own thoughts and emotions so that we can learn how to manage them. It is also important to consider what our conversation partner might be thinking or feeling so that we can manage ourselves in our interactions with them. In this level, we will look at how nonverbal communication affects conversations. The following features will be explored:

1. **BODY LANGUAGE:** We use our bodies to communicate messages. Sixty percent of our communication is done through our body language. In this section, the children will be learning how to recognize and use natural eye contact, facial expressions and body gestures within conversations.
2. **TONE OF VOICE:** We use our voice to communicate messages. Thirty percent of our communication is done through our tone of voice. In this section, the children will be learning how to recognize and use appropriate tone of voice in conversations.

In the final section of the Intermediate Level, the older children may participate in discussions surrounding the topic of social media and its influence on us as individuals and as a society.

**HOME SUGGESTION:**

If any of these lessons are of interest to you, please feel free to contact me, and I can take more time to talk with you about them. Otherwise, continue taking an active role in talking with your child about his/her speech lessons, and continue to encourage his/her efforts to develop improved conversational skills.

**Additional Suggestions:**

Thank you for your support!  
Sincerely,

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