

Activity #2: Conversation Ping-Pong

Materials needed:

- Ball
- Paper
- Timer or clock (optional)

Directions:

Write several group topics on pieces of paper, fold them, and put them in a cup or pile. Pick one from the pile and read the topic out loud so everyone can hear. Examples might include:

Sports Animals Holidays School Video games Food Friends

The person holding the ball starts by asking a conversation starter related to the topic. For example, if the topic is food, they might say, "What is your favorite restaurant?" Then they will pass the ball to another person. That person should answer the question and then ask a follow-up question back or to another person (depending on how many are playing). For example, they might say, "My favorite restaurant is Wendy's because I like their cheeseburgers. Do you like cheeseburgers?" Then they will pass the ball. Continue passing the ball back and forth and try not to ask the same question twice.

Rules:

ONLY the person holding the ball is allowed to speak
When holding the ball, don't play with it and focus on the conversation
Make eye contact when speaking and listening
Use appropriate tone and volume of voice (no yelling, but speak up so others can hear)

This activity teaches your child how to:

- Take turns
- Stay on topic
- Start a conversation
- Control the impulse to interrupt
- Focus on body control
- Pay attention to how long he/she is speaking
- Make eye contact
- Think about topics on a deeper level
- Listen to others

Added challenge:

How long can you stay on topic? Set a timer for 2-3 minutes to see if you can outlast the clock.