

## **Activity #1: Pick a Slip/Stick**

### Materials needed:

- Paper or popsicle sticks
- Dice (optional)

### Directions:

Using either slips of paper or popsicle sticks, write down conversation starters. Put them in a cup or pile. Examples might include:

*What is your favorite sport?*

*Do you have any pets?*

*Do you like winter or summer?*

*What are qualities of a good friend?*

*Have you been on vacation lately?*

*What is your favorite video game?*

*Do you like roller coasters?*

*Chocolate or candy?*

*Are you a dog or cat person?*

Take turns picking a slip or stick, reading and then answering the questions. After answering, the person should then ask the question to the rest of the group. It is a good idea for the adult to go first so they can best model the correct way.

### Rules:

No interrupting

No one-word answers

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
- Control the impulse to interrupt, especially if it is a question they really want to answer
- Make eye contact
- Stay on topic
- Learn multi-step directions
- Start a conversation
- Think about topics in a new way
- Listen to others
- Use appropriate tone of voice

### Added Challenges:

Use colored or numbered slips of paper or popsicle sticks and have the person roll dice first to determine what they should choose. This adds another step that they have to remember.

Have the person who answered the initial question repeat back and summarize what the others said when they gave their answers. This promotes the development of active listening skills.