

Speech and Language Therapy

# **Topics When Talking to People**

## **Lesson number 10 of 14 on Interaction and Communication**

Emma Jones



# Activity - Staying on Topic with Key Words

Example topic: I like <b>Football</b>
Keywords for questions - <b>Where</b> do you play?
Answer - Hackney Marshes
Keywords for questions - With <b>who</b> ?
Answer - My team, the hornets
Keywords for questions - <b>When</b> do you next play?
Answer - Saturday
Keyword questions - <b>What</b> made you want to start playing?

Topic:
Keywords for questions -
Answer -
Keywords for questions -
Answer -
Keywords for questions -
Answer -
<b>Who? Where? What? When? How? Why? What like?</b>



# Activity - Staying on Topic with Key Words

Topic:
Keywords for questions -
Answer -
Keywords for questions -
Answer -
Keywords for questions -
Answer -
<b>Who? Where? What? When? How? Why? What like?</b>

Topic:
Keywords for questions -
Answer -
Keywords for questions -
Answer -
Keywords for questions -
Answer -
<b>Who? Where? What? When? How? Why? What like?</b>



# Activity - Topic Towers

## You will need:

X1 blank topic tower

X5 conversation pieces (for each topic)

Glue

## What to do:

- 1) Choose the conversation topic tower
- 2) Cut out the pieces of conversation
- 3) Sort the conversation pieces into order you think they go (1-5)
- 4) Glue them down
- 5) See if you can add more blocks by thinking up your own questions and comments to grow the conversation
- 6) Work through the different topics
- 7) Try making your own topic towers



# Topic Tower

5	
4	
3	
2	
1	Stick blocks here

10	
9	
8	
7	
6	
	More of our ideas



# Topic Tower Talking points

Topic: A friends birthday party

Yes. I have never been ice skating before.

Are you going to Tom's birthday party?

Yeah. Great. I'm sure we will be fine.

Yeah. Are you?

Me either. Shall we stay together?

Topic: On the way home from School

Wow. Well done. That's amazing.

Hi Charlie. Did you have a good day?

Hi Mum.

Thanks. What's for dinner?

Yes thank you. I got 10/10 on my spellings.



# Topic Tower Talking points

Topic: How many people are in your family

Thats cool. Do you see your cousin much?

No they steal my things all the time.

I have 3 sisters and 1 brother. What about you?

Yeah he lives next door. Do you get on with your brothers and sisters?

I don't have any brothers or sisters but I have a cousin.

Topic:




# Conversation Games

## Microphone game

Choose a topic. Pass a toy microphone around the group. Only when you have the microphone can you say something about that topic.

## Show and tell

Ask 1 child in the group to present something important to them e.g. show a photo of their pet. Other children in the group to ask a question e.g. what is the name of your pet, what does it eat, where does it live, how old is it etc.?

## Pass the object

Take objects from a bag, and pass them 1 by 1 around the group – each person must say something about that object.

## Staying in the category

Play my grandmother went to market / my monster sandwich / I went to the beach and saw etc. Each person adds a relevant item and recalls the ones other people have said e.g. My grandmother went to market and bought a cake, my grandmother went to market and bought a cake, a pint of milk... etc.

## My news

Giving news & then asking each other and answering questions about their news



# Top Tips

## Strategies

- When the child changes the subject unexpectedly, you can say something like “Wait a minute! We were talking about pizza. You changed the topic.”
- Give them a choice “Are we talking about pizza or what we did at the weekend”.
- Provide scaffolding; You can repeat questions or remind a child "I was asking about..." or "I'm interested in knowing more about..." to get back to the topic of conversation.
- Model being a good conversational partner by responding appropriately to children's comments and questions and demonstrating active listening when they engage you in conversation
- Take advantage of ALL times of the day - snack and lunch are great times to have informal conversations with one or a small group of children.



# Conversations Diary

Date:

We learnt about

---

When my talking partner

---

---

I...

---

---

Insert picture

