

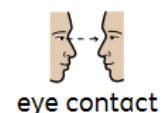
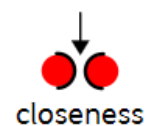
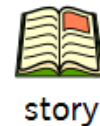
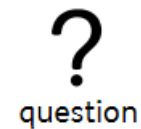


Talk Speech & Language Therapy Ltd

Name of therapist: Sam Capindale

Conversational skills – what to practice?

- *Making a comment - Saying something about what was just said ("Oh, I read that book too. It was great")*
- *Asking a question - Getting more information about what is being discussed. ("Did you like the film?")*
- *Telling a related story - Telling a story about yourself that relates to the topic. ("I have a baby sister too")*
- *Checking for understanding - Repeating what you heard the person say to make sure you understand. ("So you liked the pizza?" / "You were going to go to the zoo but then you didn't?")*
- *Changing the topic - When no one has anything left to say, start something new to talk about. ("Guess what I did yesterday")*
- *Knowing how close to stand to someone when talking.*
- *Using facial expressions and eye contact.*
- *Demonstrating good listening skills (e.g. looking at the speaker, giving non-verbal responses to show you are interested).*

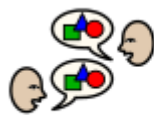


At Home Try:



Family Conversation

- Setting aside time each day/week for a 'family conversation.' This can be as free-flowing or as structured as you like.
 - If you feel like you need more structure, ask everyone to choose a topic and talk about it for a set time (a minute works well). Encourage all members of the conversation to think of at least one question to ask them when they have finished.



Topic



Practice

- Many of our students find asking questions/thinking of questions to ask the hardest part of maintaining a conversation. Practice choosing a topic and thinking of as many questions you could ask about that topic in a conversation. Then practice the conversation!
 - For example, if the topic is films you could ask:
 - What is your favourite film? And why?
 - Who is your favourite actor? And why?
 - Do you go to the cinema? Who do you go with?
 - What do you think of X film?
 - What do you prefer, cartoon or live action?
 - Etc....!



Role



Play

- Use role play to explore situations e.g.
 - Joining a conversation
 - Introducing yourself to new people
 - Buying something from a shop and engaging in small talk with the cashier.
 - Meeting a friend for a drink
 - Going to dinner with relatives/friends



Reminders

- Using everyday situations. For example:
 - If your child starts talking whilst someone else is talking, gently remind them of the rules of conversation e.g. 'Remember to wait for a gap in the conversation before you start talking.'
 - If your child changes the subject of the conversation, remind them of the topic of the main conversation and encourage him to keep to this topic.
 - If your child stands too close or looks away when they are talking to you remind them to step back or look at you.