

Conversation and Interaction // Age 9-11

Question starters

Encourage your child to engage in longer discussions about their own and other's opinions. You may look for opportunities in the day to ask your child to "Imagine if..."

- They won a holiday where would they choose to go
- They built a house where would it be and what would it look like

Encourage your child to listen to your or a sibling's ideas and re-tell these to another family member later in the day/ week.

Watching Conversations

Comment with your child on conversations within favourite TV programmes asking them to notice who is taking the most turns in the conversation; if people within the conversation are using good eye contact and listening to others.

Consider videoing your child having conversations with a friend or family member and ask them to comment on how they did having watched the film. Encourage the children to say what they did well as well something they want to improve.

Just a minute...

Give your child a topic for a conversation (e.g. pets, hobbies, favourite foods) and see if they can talk about that topic for one minute. No hesitations, repetition, or deviation!
Model this skill by having a go yourself and ask your child to time you!



Hot seat

Take turns with your child to sit in the hot seat. The other person asks them questions. The person in the hot seat pretends to be someone else e.g. a famous person, a character from a book or an historical figure.

Volume and Rate of speech

- Model appropriate volume and rate of speech to your child, children will follow the example of those around them.
- Identify and try out loud/soft volume and fast/slow rate of speech so that your child experiences them, explore volume of speech in different environments e.g. take them outside and see how loud they can be and how far away they can be heard.
- Encourage quiet talking at specific times e.g. within bedtime routines, on public transport etc.