

TalkAbility Chapter 3

Conversation “ICE” Checklist

Conversation Checklist #1



Initiating the Conversation

MY CHILD STARTS A CONVERSATION BY:		WITH WORDS	NEVER	SOMETIMES	OFTEN	WITHOUT WORDS	NEVER	SOMETIMES	OFTEN
Getting someone's attention	Says the person's name		☐	☐	☐	Stands near the person	☐	☐	☐
						Looks at the person's face	☐	☐	☐
						Taps the person on the shoulder	☐	☐	☐

Example of how my child gets someone's attention:

Greeting someone	E.g., "Hi"		☐	☐	☐	Faces the person	☐	☐	☐
						Smiles at the person	☐	☐	☐

Example of how my child greets someone:

Asking an opening question	"Hi. How are you?"		☐	☐	☐	Looks at the person and waits for an answer	☐	☐	☐
	"Hi. What's your name?"		☐	☐	☐				
	"What are you doing?"		☐	☐	☐				

Example of some opening questions my child uses:

Saying something nice	Gives a compliment, e.g., "Cool truck!"		☐	☐	☐	Looks at the person when he says something nice and then waits	☐	☐	☐
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Example of what my child says/does:

Conversation Checklist #1 continued

MY CHILD STARTS

A CONVERSATION BY: WITH WORDS NEVER SOMETIMES OFTEN WITHOUT WORDS NEVER SOMETIMES OFTEN

Talking about something that happened in the past
E.g., "I went to the zoo."

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☐

Looks at the person and then waits

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☐
☐

Example of what my child says/does:

Talking about something that will happen in the future
E.g., "I'm going to go to camp."

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☐
☐

Looks at the person and then waits

☐
☐
☐

Example of what my child says/does:

Asking another about feelings, likes/dislikes
"Are you having fun?"
"What do you like to play?"

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☐
☐

Looks at the person and then waits

☐
☐
☐

Example of what my child says/does:

Conversation Checklist #2



Continuing the Conversation

MY CHILD CONTINUES

A CONVERSATION BY: WITH WORDS NEVER SOMETIMES OFTEN WITHOUT WORDS NEVER SOMETIMES OFTEN

Responding to another person's greeting	Says "hello" back	☐	☐	☐	Turns toward the person	☐	☐	☐
					Looks at the person when responding	☐	☐	☐

Example of what my child says/does:

Answering yes/no questions	Says "yes" or "no"	☐	☐	☐	Shakes his head	☐	☐	☐
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Example of what my child says/does:

Answering questions: (What is it? Who? Where?)	E.g., "What is your favourite video?"	☐	☐	☐	Looks at person asking question	☐	☐	☐
	Child answers, "Shrek."							
	Or, "What are you doing?" Child answers, "Playing computer."							

Example of what my child says/does:

Repeating what someone says	Using the same words	☐	☐	☐	Looks at person	☐	☐	☐
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Example of what my child says/does:

Making a comment about what the other person said	E.g., "My favourite video is Spiderman too." / "Me too."	☐	☐	☐	Looks at person	☐	☐	☐
					Waits	☐	☐	☐

Example of what my child says/does:

Conversation Checklist #2 continued

MY CHILD CONTINUES A CONVERSATION BY:		WITH WORDS	NEVER	SOMETIMES	OFTEN	WITHOUT WORDS	NEVER	SOMETIMES	OFTEN
Asking the person a question about what they said	E.g. (after child says he goes to such and such a school), "What is your teacher's name?"		☐	☐	☐	Looks at person	☐	☐	☐
						Waits	☐	☐	☐
Example of what my child says/does:									
Letting the other person know that he doesn't understand something said	E.g., "What do you mean?" or "I don't understand."		☐	☐	☐	Looks at person	☐	☐	☐
						Waits	☐	☐	☐
Example of what my child says/does:									
Showing he's listening to what the other person is saying	E.g., uses fillers like "uh-huh," "yes," "OK," "me too"		☐	☐	☐	Nods head, looks interested, then waits	☐	☐	☐
						Looks at the person talking	☐	☐	☐
Example of what my child says/does:									
Introducing a new topic appropriately	With a comment or a question		☐	☐	☐	Looks at person	☐	☐	☐
Example of what my child says/does:									
Clarifying what he said	E.g., tries saying something again		☐	☐	☐	Shows the other person what he means with gestures	☐	☐	☐
	Gives more details to help explain		☐	☐	☐				
Example of what my child says/does:									
Figuring out if the listener is happy, sad, bored or confused	E.g., "Are you listening?"		☐	☐	☐	Looks at person's face and body language	☐	☐	☐
Example of what my child says/does:									

Conversation Checklist #3

E

Ending the Conversation

MY CHILD ENDS

A CONVERSATION BY: WITH WORDS NEVER SOMETIMES OFTEN WITHOUT WORDS NEVER SOMETIMES OFTEN

Telling the listener he has to go	E.g., "I'm finished now," "Gotta go," "I don't want to read this book any more."	☐	☐	☐	Puts toys etc. away	☐	☐	☐
					Looks at person	☐	☐	☐

Example of what my child says/does:

Saying something about what's going to happen	"I'm going to play cars now."	☐	☐	☐	Points or gestures to what he's going to do next	☐	☐	☐
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Example of what my child says/does:

Conversation Checklist #3 continued

MY CHILD ENDS

A CONVERSATION BY: WITH WORDS NEVER SOMETIMES OFTEN WITHOUT WORDS NEVER SOMETIMES OFTEN

Saying something about the next time together	"See you later."	☐	☐	☐	Smiles and looks at other person	☐	☐	☐
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Example of what my child says/does:

Using a tried-and-true closing	"Bye."	☐	☐	☐	Waves and smiles	☐	☐	☐
					Looks at other person	☐	☐	☐

Example of what my child says/does:

Using a tried-and-true closing with someone's name	"Bye, Jonah."	☐	☐	☐	Waves and smiles	☐	☐	☐
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Example of what my child says/does:

