



Conversation Starters

DATE:

SOCIAL SKILL OBJECTIVE: Students will be able to start conversations based on interests and shared experiences. Instructors will use one or more of the following activities.

MATERIALS: scissors, copies of Friendship Bingo Cards, markers, 12” construction paper circles divided into 6 pizza slices, tokens, Drawing Cards, origami directions from internet Pass the Pickle

BOOKS: *Say Something* by Peggy Moss; *Sun and Moon* by Marcus Pfister; *The Very Quiet Cricket*; by Eric Carle

ASCA NATIONAL STANDARDS: PS:A2.6, PS:A2.7

SOCIAL TIMES: “Having a Conversation” (The Main Event) Volume 2, Number 3, p. 2 by Kari Dunn Buron

SOCIAL SKILLS EXPECTATIONS: When discussing specific behaviors that impact relationships, ask: Who, What, Where, When, Why, and How in relation to behaviors.

TEACHER TIDBITS: Making Friends

- Smile—practice in front of a mirror
- Say something nice about them like “Good Job”
- Ask a new friend questions about themselves. “What’s your favorite game?”
- Answer questions asked of you—don’t shrug.
- If someone pays you a compliment say, “Thank you.”

ACTIVITY 1: The students will play Friendship Bingo to learn about mutual interests. In clockwise order students will pick a topic and read it. Students will use Dragon Tears to cover situations that apply to them.

ACTIVITY 2: CONVERSATION PIZZA: The instructors will start a conversation by asking, “What is your favorite pizza topping?” All students will continue to carry on the conversation with the person on their left. After a while the instructors will place requirements on the types of questions that they may ask. (What did you eat for breakfast? What is your favorite movie?)

ACTIVITY 3: It helps to have interesting hobbies to share with friends. Origami is a fun activity to share. Students will create a variety of origami shapes from www.origami-fun.com.

ACTIVITY 4: If you only like, or are willing to take part in things you are interested in, you are missing out on lots of opportunities to make friends. Most people love to talk about themselves so it’s up to the conversation starter to get the conversation going. Open question require an explanation for an answer rather than just a simple yes or no and tend to begin with who, when, what, why, where, and how, whereas closed questions tend to start with do, have, and is/am/are.



Examples of closed questions are: “Do you like reading books?”, “Have you been to a concert?”, or “Is summer your favorite season?” Examples of open questions are: “What types of books do you like to read?”, “What was your favorite subject in school?”, or “Which season is your favorite? Why?” The students will ask questions of each other after drawing cards with the words who, what, where, when and how. Their questions must begin with the word they draw.

ACTIVITY 5: Approaching strangers can be especially difficult. Often the hardest part is just approaching the person and saying hi. These conversation introductions and farewells are all good ways to introduce yourself, break the ice and politely leave. Each participant will draw a conversation strip and the question or statement. The group will decide if they agree this is a good introduction or farewell.

ACTIVITY 6: First date conversations can sometimes be awkward. Having some ideas ahead of time can help ease the anxiety of carrying on conversations when dating. Each participant will draw a conversation strip and ask the question of a group member. The group will decide if they agree this is a good conversation starter.


ACTIVITY 7: Play “Pass the Pickle”. When the music stops, that person needs to tell the class one favorite thing (i.e. – teacher chooses – food, TV show, music, color, animal, etc.)


GAME: Chatter Matters


ACTIVITY 1:


Friendship Bingo


Has a baby in the family	Has been to a baseball game	Has a pet dog	Favorite subject is math	Favorite color is blue
Grandma lives out of town	Has a sister	Has flown on a plane	Has been to Disney World	Likes chili dogs
Rides a skateboard	Walks to school		Has a cat	Has a TV in bedroom
Likes cheese pizza	Has been to Washington DC	Likes to play with Legos	Has 3 or more brothers and sisters	Has a bike
Eats cereal for breakfast	Has a collection	Watches cartoons on Saturday morning	Plays sports	Plays an instrument
Has a little sister	Has been to a football game	Has a pet rabbit	Favorite subject is reading	Favorite color is red

Grandma lives in the same town as them	Has an uncle	Has flown on a plane	Has been to the zoo	Likes milkshakes
Rides a bike	Rides the bus		Has a bird	Has a cell phone
Likes pepperoni pizza	Has been to a water park	Likes to play card games	Has shutters on their house	Has a BBQ grill
Eats donuts for breakfast	Has a watch	Watches the news	Takes some type of lessons	Likes to play board games

Reads a story at night	Plays a team sport	Has a pet turtle	Favorite subject is music	Favorite color is yellow
Has a friend who lives out of town	Has 2 or more aunts	Has ridden on a hot air balloon	Has made s'mores	Likes chocolate cake
Likes to skate	Has planted flowers		Likes to sing	Has eaten a banana split
Likes tacos	Has been to House of Pancakes	Likes to play with puzzles	Has a green house	Has a toaster
Likes macaroni and cheese	Has a bunk bed	Can stand on their head	Reads comic books	Has a marshmallow blow gun

Likes bananas	Has been on a fire truck	Has a pet mouse	Favorite subject is P.E.	Favorite color is black
Has a friend who is from another country	Has been to a concert	Has been to the ocean	Has been to a camp	Likes pickles
Likes to play video games	Has made a birthday card		Likes to swim	Has eaten a banana split
Likes to draw	Has been in a cave	Likes apples	Has a yellow house	Has a clock in their bedroom
Likes ice cream sandwiches	Has family chores to do	Can wiggle their ears	Likes play dough	Has a camera

Likes pineapple	Has been on a delivery truck	Has a pet fish	Favorite subject is recess	Favorite color is orange
Has a grandparent who is from another country	Has been to Burger King	Has visited a museum	Has been to camp	Likes pretzels
Likes to play video games	Has made something out of clay		Likes to paint	Has eaten wedding cake
Likes shopping for clothes	Has been to an amusement park	Likes meatloaf	Likes to blow bubbles	Has a rocking chair in their house
Likes peanut butter and jelly sandwiches	Has a birdhouse	Can do a back bend	Reads science fiction	Has slept in a motel

Likes chili dogs	Has an interest in vampires	Has a pet snake	Favorite subject is science	Favorite color is purple
Has a grandparent who lives with them	Has been to Paradise Park	Has visited a zoo in another State	Has been to a day camp	Likes bagels
Likes to play Go Fish	Has played Pick-Up Sticks		Likes popcorn	Has eaten liver
Has lived on a farm	Has been to a state capitol	Likes mustard	Has eaten Cotton Candy	Has a dog bed
Likes to sing	Has a doghouse	Has participated in a talent show	Reads the comics in the newspaper	Has slept on a futon



ACTIVITY 4

Who	Why	What
Where	When	How



ACTIVITY 5

General Conversation Introductions and Farewells

Hi, I'm _____ good to see you again, _____.	Hi, my name is _____. It's nice to meet you.
Have I met you before? You look familiar.	_____, this is my friend _____.
_____ I'd like you to meet my friend/sister _____.	Great to meet you, I'm _____.
Hi, my name is _____. I'm _____ brother/sister.	It's nice to meet you _____, that's a pretty name.
_____, I had a nice time. The food was great.	Hi, I'm _____, do you remember me? We met at _____.
Hi, I'm _____ and am one of the volunteers this evening.	Everyone, I would like you to meet _____.
Hi, I'm _____ and I really like your jacket/bag/shoes.....	Hi, I'm _____, can I join the conversation? I'm interested in _____ too.



ACTIVITY 6

First Date Conversation Breakers

What kind of pets do you like? Are you a dog or cat person?	What type of exercise do you like to do?
What would you do if you won the lottery?	Where did you grow up?
What's your favorite song of all time?	What did you do last weekend?
What's the one place you want to visit on a vacation?	What is something you would like to learn how to do?
What type of work would you like to do?	What do your parents do?
What was your favorite movie ever?	What do you do for fun?
What were you like as a little kid?	What is your biggest goal in life right now?
What was your family like growing up?	Who has been the biggest influence in your life?
What was your favorite book or story when you were a little kid?	What was your best birthday ever?
What was your favorite childhood toy?	What's the best advice anyone ever gave you?
What's the bravest thing you've ever done?	What's the luckiest thing that ever happened to you?