



Activity # 1

INGREDIENTS OF A SUCCESSFUL CONVERSATION

Goal of activity: To increase awareness of the elements of an effective conversation, and to explore how that relates to talking with children.

Materials needed: flip chart

Directions:

1. Break into small discussion groups of 3 to 5 people.
2. Give each group the following discussion questions:
 - Think about adult conversations that fall flat, are boring, or even unpleasant. What specific things do other people do that make conversations ineffective?
 - Now consider conversations that are fun and interesting. What do you notice people doing that make conversations work?
3. Allow 10-15 minutes for the groups to talk about the questions and record their answers.
4. Come back to the large group and share results.
5. Record answers on the flip chart in two categories: Things that Work and Things that Don't.

Further discussion:

- Look at the lists created of things that work in conversations and things that don't. How do these apply with children who are just becoming conversational?
- Are there things we do that work in adult conversations that are not effective with children?

