CONVERSATION SKILLS: STAYING ON TOPIC

To have a successful conversation, it’s important for both partners to stay on topic. Sometimes we’re not interested in the topic, but being a good friend means talking about things our friend likes sometimes.

In this activity, you’ll practice talking about the same topic back and forth with your partner without getting off track and starting to talk about something different.

Directions

Student #1 will choose a topic card from the pile and start the conversation by saying something about that topic. For example, if the topic is sports, they might say, “My family and I went to a basketball game once. It was fun cheering for the team.” They will then place the first Lemur card “C” on the table.

Student #2 should reply by responding to Student #1, or saying something else about the topic. For example, “I’ve never been to a basketball game, but I have been to a baseball game. My brother is on the team.”

If their reply is on-topic, like the example above, student #2 will put the second Lemur card, the “O” down on the table.

If the reply is not on-topic, the teacher should put down a Principal Wild “stop” card. For example, if the student says something like “My favorite subject in school is math.”

The goal is to spell out the word “Communication” with the Lemur cards by talking back and forth about the same topic, without getting any “stops” in the conversation.
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