



Conversation Stoppers

- **Monopolizing** the conversation; that is, not giving your child a chance to respond.
- **Being distracted or disinterested** in what your child says.
- **Giving brief responses** to your child. Examples: "good", "really", "uh-uh", "well", "nice", "I see", etc.
- **Bombarding your child with questions** that only require a "yes" or "no" response. Example: "Is this a duck?".
- **Leaving little time** for your child to reply.
- **Ignoring** what your child says and **changing the topic of conversation** without acknowledging what he/she has said.

Ways to Promote / Continue Conversations

- **Making comments** about what your child has said, what he/she appears interested in, and/or items in your environment. Example: If your child is looking at a picture of a cow in a book, make a simple comment about the cow such as "Cow is eating".
- **Asking simple Wh-questions** (what, where, who) that require more of a response than simply "yes" or "no". Be careful not to bombard your child with too many questions though.
- **Providing choices**. Example: "Juice or milk?"; "Ball or truck?" etc.
- **Doing something silly or unpredictable**. Example: Putting a Lego block on your head, up your sleeve, etc.).
- **Using "creative stupidity"**. Example: Calling your child's favourite book character by the wrong name on purpose.