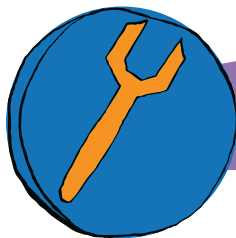


KEEP ME IN THE LOOP



TOOL 5A: TALKING CARDS

LINKED TO:

- This tool can be used in all situations where you might engage children directly
- Sections 1.2, 1.4, 5.2 & 5.3



WHY?

- To help break the ice and build rapport
- To break up discussions (giving people a breather)
- Good at:
 - Getting conversations started
 - Giving kids some control over the discussions
 - Modelling appropriate disclosure
 - Having fun
 - Making sure that everyone in a group has an opportunity to contribute



WHO WITH?

- Children 5+ through to adults
- Individuals, pairs or groups



TIME?

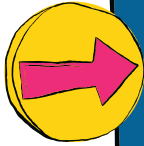
- A few to 30 minutes



YOU'LL NEED?

- Printed copies of the 'talking cards'

KEEP ME IN THE LOOP



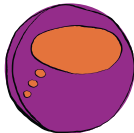
WHAT TO DO:

- Find a nice quiet space – somewhere you won't be interrupted
- Lay all the cards down on a flat surface – the floor's a great place to lay them out
- Ask the child(ren) to choose you a 'talking card' and get them to read you the question or help read it for them
- Answer the question
- Repeat – this time having someone else answering the question
- Affirm the response and, where possible, make some links among the group or between the two of you ("I love spaghetti too" or "who else likes soccer? Maybe you guys could go and kick it around after lunch")
- Continue until everyone has had a go



SOMETHING DIFFERENT?

- If working in a group, put the cards in a bowl and have each participant pull one card out at a time
- Use the 'Bingo' card: this means that everyone has to answer the next question
- Get kids to come up with their own questions on blank cards



TO THINK ABOUT:

- It's always best to start activities and conversations with some kind of ice breaker. Change these to keep the group dynamic and engaged. If you've used this activity a few times, maybe get kids to come up with their own questions / topics for discussion and try them out!



HAZARD ZONES:

- Find out whether the child(ren) can read before asking them to do so
- Don't drag the activity out too much if children are beginning to get restless
- Try to keep the conversations fairly relaxed – don't prod or probe just yet!
- Use the activity to draw connections rather than highlight differences ("oh really? Isn't a cheese pizza boring?")

Talking cards

**My favourite
colour is...**

**The thing I
like doing the
most is...**

**If I won a million
dollars I'd...**

**If I could have
any super power
I'd choose...**

**The food I love
the most is...**

**The person that
makes me laugh
the most is...**

Talking cards Continued

**The best holiday
I ever went on
was to...**

**My favourite TV
show is...**

**My favourite
kind of
pizza is...**

**I couldn't live
without...**

**If my life was made
into a movie I'd like
to be played by...**

**The best thing that
happened to me
today was...**