

Skill Area(s): Conversation Skills

Conversation Tree

From Michelle Winner Garcia's conference and based on her books Thinking about YOU Thinking about ME and Inside Out: What Makes a Person with Social Cognitive Deficits Tick?
<http://www.socialthinking.com>

Level: beginner, intermediate, advanced

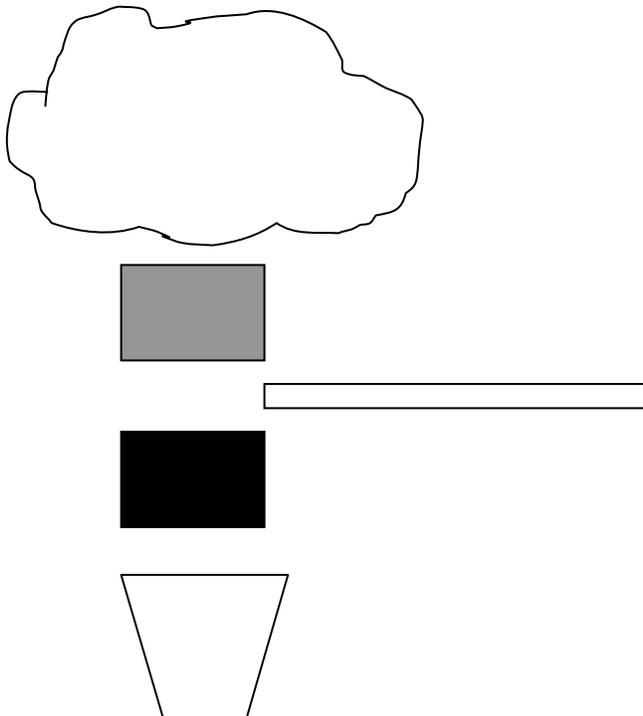
Goal: to track participation in conversations, track how topics move, track appropriateness of communicative behavior and allows for visual reinforcement of reciprocal communication

Materials needed: these can be die cuts, cut outs from craft foam or scraps from the recycling bin, Conversation Topic cards (attached)

- treetop
- stump/tree bottom, squares for the trunk- each person gets their own color
- branches- can be a rectangle or use a pipe cleaners (place in a pile for all to use)
- Optional: just draw the shapes on a white/chalk board or on paper as you complete the activity

Activity:

- Each person gets a pile of colored squares. If you are drawing this just use a different colored marker for each student.
- The group is given a conversational topic or chooses their own.
- Each person who makes a relevant comment and then asks a question of another person can place his or her color square on the trunk and watch the tree grow.
- Add a branch to represent conversation/non-verbal errors. This marks a lack of trunk growth. This helps students to become more aware of what it takes to contribute to the conversation.



What is your favorite TV show? Why?	What is your favorite movie? Why?
Name three things you like to eat at lunch	Tell about your favorite vacation
Do you like sports? Which is your favorite?	Do you have a favorite team? Why do you like them?
If Donald Duck raced against Porky pig, who would win and why?	What is your favorite after school snack?

<p>Have you ever flown in an airplane? What was it like?</p>	<p>Where were you born?</p>
<p>Would you rather hike up a mountain or play a computer game? Why?</p>	<p>Do you like to play computer games? Which one is your favorite?</p>
<p>Do you have a pet? Tell about it or tell what kind of pet you would like to have.</p>	<p>Who's your favorite cartoon character?</p>
<p>What is your favorite special and why?</p>	<p>What season do you like the best (winter, spring, summer or fall)? Why?</p>