

Big Bird's Everyday Conversation Cards

These cards can help spark conversations during children's everyday routines. Cut them out, and keep them in a place that will make it easy for you to look at them together each day. You might keep the "walking," "shopping," and "in the car" cards in your wallet; the "mealtime" card taped on a wall where you eat; and the "bedtime" card on the bedroom wall.

Getting Dressed

What are you excited to do today? Who are you going to see?



Mealtime

What is the happiest thing that happened to you today? The saddest thing? The silliest thing?



©2016 Sesame.

©2016 Sesame.



In the Car

Tell me about a time you felt happy...sad...frustrated...excited...surprised!



Shopping

What are some kinds of fruits? Vegetables? Dairy? Meats? Seafood?

©2016 Sesame.

©2016 Sesame.

Walking

What letters do you see? Words? Shapes? Colors?



Snack Time

What does your food look like? What does it taste like?



©2016 Sesame.

©2016 Sesame.



Bath Time

Which toys float and which toys sink? Do the big toys always sink?



Bedtime

Once upon a time, I was a superhero named...

©2016 Sesame.

©2016 Sesame.

Silly Friends!

Let's have fun **talking** about the picture below!



Talk:

- » What is each of the Sesame Street friends doing?
- » What's funny about this picture?
- » What silly thing would you do if you were on Sesame Street?

Walk & Talk

In this activity, families take a “walking tour” with their child, noticing different objects in the room and using them to spark conversations.

FIRST, begin a discussion:

- Ask parents and caregivers, “What do you think your child means when he looks at or points to something? Why might she be pointing?” (It’s a way of showing interest and wanting to share the experience, or maybe the child wants more information about something.)
- Once participants have shared their ideas, note: “It’s great to follow your child’s lead as a starting place for teaching and learning. It’s wonderful when you’re in tune with their interests; it helps their overall development.”

NEXT, invite parents and caregivers to walk around the room examining their surroundings, allowing children to guide the walk. Tell them they are literally “following” children’s interests!

- Encourage adults to ask guiding questions, using the five senses as a framework: “What does that feel like? Is it soft or hard? What color is that? What noise does that animal make?”
- They can also “play narrator” and make comments on what the child is observing: “Oh, I think blue might be your favorite color”; “That is a very thick book!”
- If the child is a baby, suggest that parents hold the child at eye level to the things they are talking about, use pointing to gesture, and put their faces close to their babies’ faces, speaking slowly and softly and making eye contact.

LAST, regroup and ask families about other everyday moments:

- “What are some routines in which you might have conversations like this with your child?”
- Point out the importance of simply narrating everyday activities, responding to coos and babbling, and repeating what children have said.
- Say, “Let’s brainstorm other ways to use language to explore with your child at home.”
- Conclude by saying, “So having a language-rich conversation is like tossing a ball back and forth, responding to each other, and keeping the conversation going for as long as possible, while using many different kinds of words.”

