

Zig-Zag Talking

1. Discuss what makes you a 'Good Talker', using the 'Good Talking' visual prompt sheet enclosed.
2. Have some fun demonstrating what happens when you don't do 'good talking' – ie look the other way/around the room, when child is talking to you (NOT looking), or keep interrupting, when the child is telling you about something (NOT good turn –taking)
3. Practice 'Good talking' skills, using the enclosed 'Zig-Zag' talking track:
 - Put the sheet between you and the child, so that 3 circles are on each side
 - Choose a car/counter etc and place on the 'start' circle.
 - Explain that when the car/counter is on the child's side of the track, it is their turn to talk and vice versa.
 - Choose a topic to talk about, using the topic cards provided/make up your own.
 - The child may need to choose the topic at first, but work towards taking turns to choose, so that the child practices following someone else's choice of topic as well as their own.
 - When the first person (who started the conversation) has said something, push the car across the track to the other side, so that the other person has a turn to talk, and so on until you reach the end.
 - You could talk about how to finish a conversation at this point, if you wish and try out some endings, eg "Well, that was interesting. I had better get back to work" etc.

