

## Listening During A Conversation\*

ACTIVITY

71

**Learning Objective:** To teach children to take turns talking and listening during a conversation

**Skill:** Social communication, self-control

Ask the group why it is important to listen when they are having a conversation with someone. Brainstorm ideas and write them on the blackboard or a large sheet of paper.

Tell them:

*When you listen carefully while others speak, people feel that you are interested in what they have to say. You may want to make a point, but it is important to use self-control and listen to the other person.*

*Here are some important rules to follow:*

- *You should show interest in what the person is saying by facing her and maintaining eye contact.*
- *While she is speaking, think about what she's saying to you.*
- *If you agree with what she's saying, or want to show that you understand, you can nod your head.*
- *When she's finished speaking, ask a question or make a comment about what she said.*

*People want to feel that they are being heard and understood. When you are a good listener, people will see you as a caring, respectful person and they will connect with you more easily.*

Distribute Activity Sheet 71. After the children complete it, ask them why they think certain pairs of kids are going to have a good conversation and others are not. For the pairs that are not, have the group suggest responses that good listeners might make. Then, have children pair up and try to have conversations themselves, either independently or by bringing one pair to the front of the class at a time.

# Listening During A Conversation

ACTIVITY SHEET

71

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Some of these children are really listening to their partners, and others are not. Circle the pairs that are on their way to having a good conversation.

Did you watch the scary movie on TV last night?



Why are you wearing boots?



How do you think you did on the math test?



Okay, I think. How about you?



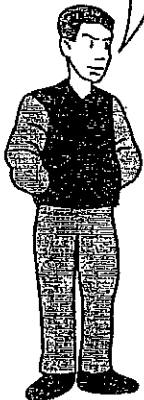
I feel really stupid. I fell off my bike and skinned my knee.



It's okay. Anyone can fall off their bike. I've done it many times.



I'm so mad at my parents!



What happened?



Yesterday I went...



Hey, can you help me with my homework?



I have to think of a birthday gift for my mom.



What kinds of things does she like?

