

CONVERSATION
STARTERS
TODDLERS

while

DISCOVERING

together



“I notice

you are wearing two different colored socks.”

Acknowledges something without judgment.



“I wonder

why the car moves faster when it's going down the ramp.”
Pause. If the child can't say why, describe the slant of the ramp.

Shows curiosity and a desire to learn more.



“Tell me about this.”

Pause. If you cannot understand all your child is saying, say what you notice.

Encourages children to express their ideas

**CONVERSATION
STARTERS
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while

READING

together

**“What do you think
is happening here?”**

Point to the pictures on a page.
Pause to allow time for child to respond.

**Encourages children to express
their ideas.**



**“How do you think this
character feels?”**

Choose a picture of a character that shows emotion. .
Pause. If the child does not respond, offer suggestions.
Talk about a time when your child
may have felt that way.

Helps build empathy.



**“What do you think
will happen next?”**

Pause. Child may point to something in the
picture or respond verbally.
Repeat the child’s response or provide your own
based on child’s gestures.
“Now let’s see what happened in the book.”

Prompts children to make predictions.



while

CONVERSATION
STARTERS
TODDLERS

PLAYING

together

“How are these two items
the same or different?”



“Let’s see how these two dolls are the same and different.
What do you think?”
Also, “How do they look like you?
How do they look different from you?”

Asks children to compare and contrast.

“What can you do

to build a taller tower?”



Challenges children to
improve their work.

“How can we
work together?”

“What would you like me to do?”

Encourages collaboration.



CONVERSATION
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while

EXPLORING

together



“What do you notice

about this leaf?”
Pause. Offer further description.

Prompts children to observe closely.



“What would happen if
you moved that block to a different spot?”

Encourages children to consider
different approaches.

“Let’ see how we
can find out more

about trains.”

Encourages children to seek out
new information.



while

CONVERSATION
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REFLECTING

together



“What was
easy or hard
for you to do?”

Asks children to
evaluate their skills.



“How do you
feel about what
you did?”

Watch child’s expressions.
Acknowledge what child says.
Suggest feeling words based on
what you have observed.

Focuses attention
on emotions.

“What else can
you try?”

“You like to drop that ball from your high chair.
Let’s experiment with bouncing
different kinds of balls.”

Encourages children to consider
different approaches.



This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.



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