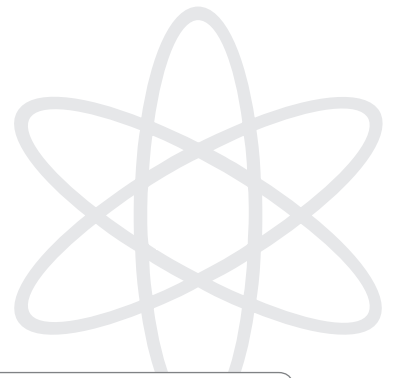


'Eye contact and talking' handout 1 of 2



Think

When my child is speaking, where is he looking?

How might developing my child's eye contact also help him to be more fluent?

Why do we need to look at people during a conversation?

- ✧ So that they will know we are talking to them.
- ✧ So that we can see if they are interested in what we are saying.
- ✧ So that we can see if they want to say something and we need to stop talking.
- ✧ So the speaker knows we are listening to them.

Why do we sometimes look away when we are speaking?

- ✧ To think about what we are saying.

What can happen if we look at something interesting while we are talking about something else?

- ✧ We can get distracted and forget what we are talking about.

Observe

Notice what people do when they are having a conversation.

When do they do most of the looking?

- ✧ When they are listening and sometimes when they are speaking.

When do they look away?

- ✧ When they are bored with listening.
- ✧ When they are thinking about what to say next.



Different types of looking:

- 1 normal looking
- 2 staring
- 3 looking away

Eye contact and talking **2 of 2**

Looking and fluency

What could I do to help my child use more eye contact when he is talking?

- ✿ Make sure I'm looking at him.
- ✿ Touch him to get his attention.
- ✿ Say his name.
- ✿ Keep my eyes at the same level as his.
- ✿ Bring the object of his attention, such as a toy or a book, up to the level of my face.

A secret signal

You and your child could decide on a secret signal that you will use to remind him to look at you when he is speaking.