

Learning Links' Tip Sheet

Greetings



One way to help your child initiate a conversation appropriately is to give them a "script". A script means telling them what they could say and rehearsing it before meeting a familiar friend e.g. greeting a teacher at preschool. When you arrive you can remind them before coming through the gate and if they forget give them a prompt or reminder. One teacher should be nominated to be available for this greeting.

Step 1

Greet teacher

e.g. Teacher: "Hello (child's name)"
Child: "Hello (name of teacher)"

Step 2

Full greeting

e.g. Teacher: "Hello (child's name)"
Child: "Hello (teacher's name)"
Teacher: "How are you?"
Child: "Good (fine, etc)"

Step 3

Full greeting plus a follow up question which the child answers.

The follow up question could be discussed with the parent the day before but it must be appropriate to the situation.

e.g. talking about what they did on the weekend or something they have brought into preschool.

Important points for the person being greeted

- ∞ Get down to the child's level ie face to face.
- ∞ Give them time to respond (count to 15).
- ∞ Be interested and not distracted.
- ∞ Ignore inappropriate responses or tangential questions.
- ∞ Repeat unanswered questions using less words.
- ∞ Rephrase the question if needed.
- ∞ If there is still no response give a choice.

The information in Learning Links' Tip Sheets is prepared by experienced early childhood professionals. Each child is unique and this material is not necessarily suitable for every child, parent or carer. We recommend you discuss this information with your child's therapist or education professional prior to using these tips.

