

Activity Name

Story Spark Conversation Catch

Requirements

Soft ball

Index cards with conversational prompts (examples: "What is your favorite thing to do outside?", "If you could have any superpower, what would it be and why?", "Tell me about a time you helped someone.", "What is your favorite book or movie and why?", "What is your favorite food and how is it made?")

Instructions

Preparation (5 minutes): Before the session, ensure the index cards have a variety of engaging and age-appropriate conversational prompts written on them. Arrange the cards face down in a pile.

Introduction (2 minutes): Explain to the client that you will be playing a game called "Story Spark Conversation Catch." Explain that the goal is to practice conversational skills by answering questions and expanding on their answers.

Game Play (20 minutes):

Begin by holding the soft ball. Pick a card from the pile and read the prompt aloud.

Answer the question on the card yourself, modeling a good conversational response (e.g., giving details, explaining your reasoning, relating it to your own experience). This sets the stage for the type of response expected.

Toss the soft ball to the client.

They must answer the same question or a variation of it and expand on their answer. Encourage them to give details, explain their reasoning, and/or relate it to their own experience.

After the client answers the question, encourage them to add one or two follow-up questions to you related to their answer or your answer. This helps promote back-and-forth conversation.

Repeat the process. This time, have the client select the card, read the prompt, answer the prompt, and then toss the ball back to you, expecting you to expand on their thoughts with your own answer or with an open question directed to the client.

Continue playing, alternating who picks the card and who answers, until the time is almost up.

Wrap-up (3 minutes): Briefly review the activity. Ask the client what they learned or what they enjoyed about the game. Provide positive reinforcement for their participation and effort in practicing their conversational skills.