

Conversation Starters that Build MESH Skills

Your child is playing! Fantastic. Here are some conversation prompts to reinforce the MESH lessons they're learning through play. You can use them at the time, or later when you connect about their day.

With three to six year olds:

- Wow, you've found another way to do that! How does it feel? (*discuss problem solving*)
- Can you tell me a story about your game? What's happening? (*reinforce storytelling*)
- Does this get harder as you play it longer or easier? (*discuss challenge*)
- Can I play? (*build adult child relationship*)

With seven to ten year olds:

- What problem do you have to solve in this game? (*discuss problem solving*)
- What's the hardest part to play or character to be in this game? Why? (*reinforce storytelling*)
- I see the challenge increasing the longer you play. How do you feel about that? Does it make the game better or worse? Why is that? (*discuss challenge*)
- Will you teach me about this game so I could try? (*build adult child relationship*)

With eleven to thirteen year olds:

- I see you kept going past the obstacles. What do you think about if you want to encourage yourself to keep trying? (*discuss perseverance*)
- How does playing this game help you? What do you love about it and what do you learn from it? (*reinforce storytelling*)
- Some games get harder as you go, and I see you challenging yourself with that. What's the advantage to you? Wouldn't it be easier to stay on the beginner level over and over? (*discuss challenge*)
- Can you show me your favorite thing to play right now and I'll show you my favorite? (*build adult child relationship*)