



What in the Box?

Conversations are important for children's language and phonological development. Making conversations engaging can help children develop emotional body language. It also may be challenging for some children to socialize with children or adults they are unfamiliar with. Therefore, it might take some effort to get some children to join a conversation.

Turn the conversation into an activity, by cutting a hole in a box that is large enough for your child's hands. Tell your child to make sure they do not peek into the hole. You can even have the child cover their eyes or turn around while you place an object or multiple objects in the box. Instruct your child to place one hand in the hole of the box and describe three things that the object feels like. Then, have the child guess what it might be. Feel free to give your child several guesses before pulling the object out the box.

This fun, engaging experience provides the opportunity for children to practice the power of description and have a nature conversation with you.

Learning on the Go!

- In the car headed home? Ask your child to guess what they think you are cooking or picking up for dinner? Extend the conversation by asking them why they guessed that way and what they would like for dinner.
- At the table eating dinner? Ask the child to tell you about their day and begin asking them clarifying questions to better understand what they are sharing about their day.

