

Conversation Starters and Stoppers!

Questions to Keep the Conversation Going:

- ❑ Can you give me an example...?
- ❑ What did you mean when you said...?
- ❑ What makes you believe that?
- ❑ Would you explain to me what you just said?
- ❑ What reason do you have to feel that way?
- ❑ What part of the activity made you feel that way?
- ❑ Could you tell me more about that?
- ❑ What other feelings did you feel?
- ❑ What else can you add?

Questions to Avoid:

- ❑ A question with a right or wrong answer
- ❑ Questions that can be answered with a "yes" or "no"
- ❑ Long, wordy questions where the meaning is forgotten before you even stop asking the actual question
- ❑ A question within a question
- ❑ Questions that are either/or
- ❑ A question that has an obvious one word answer
- ❑ Questions that are too general or too vague
- ❑ Questions that the Little would not have enough experience to answer

Getting Kids to Talk...

Some kids may be hesitant to talk because they are shy or feel like their contribution is not very valuable. They feel that the comments and opinions of others are more important than theirs. There are a variety of techniques to draw them into the discussion that is taking place or future discussions. Although a Little may take time to open to their Big or the group, over time they will begin to feel more comfortable and develop a sense of trust. Ideas for getting kids to feel like they are able to talk and more comfortable include:

- ❑ Start with questions that are non-threatening and not too person
- ❑ Use questions that ask for opinions rather than facts
- ❑ Have the Little write down their opinion and then read them to their Big