

How Interesting Is It?

activity and picture worksheets

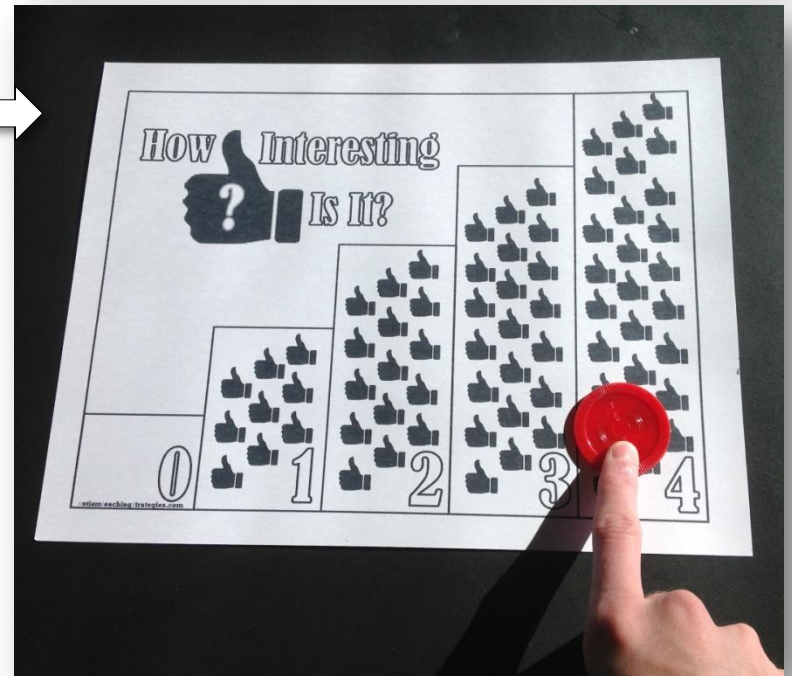
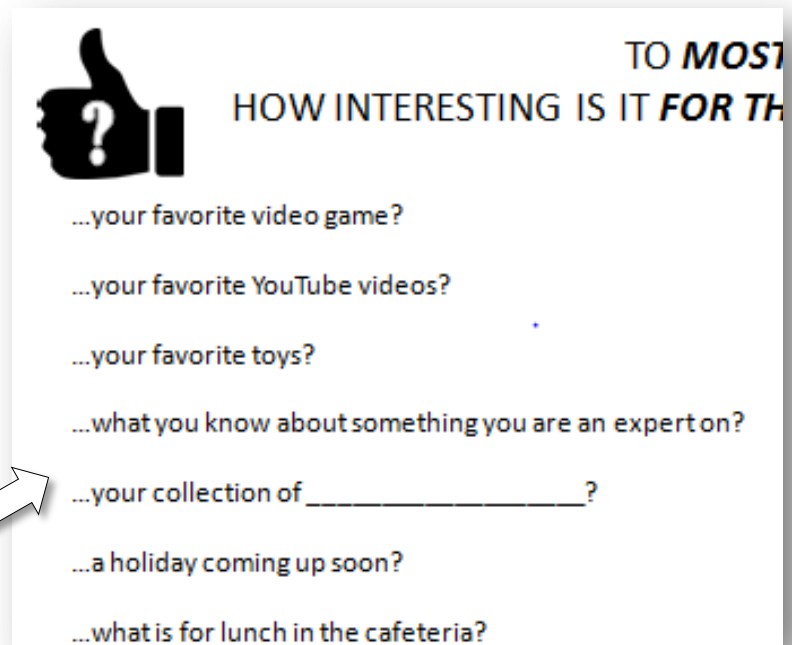
Children with autism spectrum disorders can find it very difficult to know what to say to their peers. Children with ASD tend to fall back on their own preferred topics.

Here are some activities to increase awareness of various things that other people find interesting to talk about. The activities employ the thumbs-up “like” symbol, which is very familiar to most children as an indicator of what pleases another person.

This kit includes:

- 1. How Interesting Is It topic list** [fragment shown here].
This is a list of ninety different conversation topics. You read them out loud to children so they can rate how interesting they are.
- 2. How Interesting Is It rating sheet** [shown here].
Children move a chip between 0 and 4 based on how interesting they think a particular conversation topic might be for another person.
- 3. How Interesting Is It picture worksheets** [shown on next page].
This part of the kit, which is optional, is to provide further guidance for children who need it.

Joel Shaul, LCSW



How to introduce and carry out these activities:

Here is some suggested language to use:

“Who has ever seen the ‘like’ icon on Facebook or other places online? What does it mean? It means someone likes something that they see or hear online. Some things online get lots of ‘likes’. Some get few, or none.

When you are talking to other people, you might also be scoring ‘likes’ - in their minds. Or you might not be scoring ‘likes’ at all. When you are ‘interesting,’ it is something like scoring ‘likes’. When you are not interesting, or boring, you are not scoring ‘likes’.

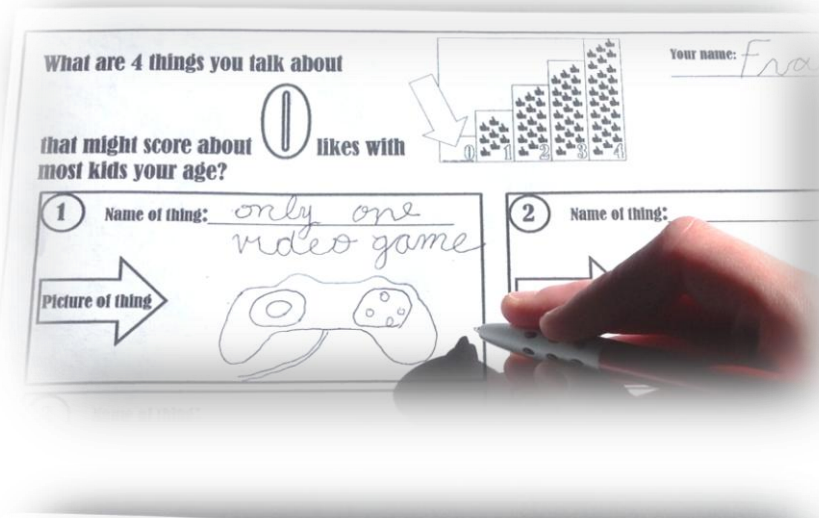
You can get much better at scoring ‘likes’ in conversation by paying close attention to what you are saying and what the other person might find to be interesting. Your own words might seem really interesting to your own ears. Maybe the other person will like your words too. But, depending on the topic and what the other person finds interesting, your words might not score any ‘likes’ at all.

Here are some activities to help you get better at scoring ‘likes’ when you talk.

1. How Interesting Is It rating sheet. *I will read you a number of different conversation topics. For each one, you have to take a guess on how interesting, on a scale of 0 to 4, it might be to the other person. Place your chip on the number that you think shows how interesting it is to the other person, not you. [Note to teacher: alter the wording as you read through the list, to clarify and specify as you see fit.]*
2. How Interesting Is It picture worksheets. *For the Zero sheet, pick out some things from the list that might be uninteresting to most kids – or things that you think of yourself. Write them down on the sheet and draw small pictures. For the 1, 2, 3 and 4 sheets, write and draw things that kids your age might find more interesting.”*

Note to teacher: These activities work best when you add role play practice. Select a number of topics that would rate a 3 or 4 with most children. You play the role of the other child in the conversation. Then, assign the children to converse with you on these selected topics.

For more free social communication resources, click here: <http://bit.ly/LNFiQU>

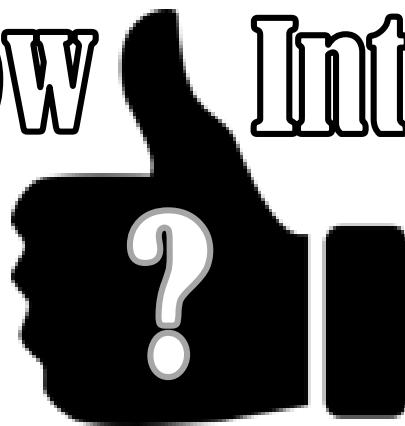


Joel Shaul provides professional workshops nationwide on a range of social skills topics.

To learn more, follow this link:

<http://bit.ly/YxFn13>

How Interesting

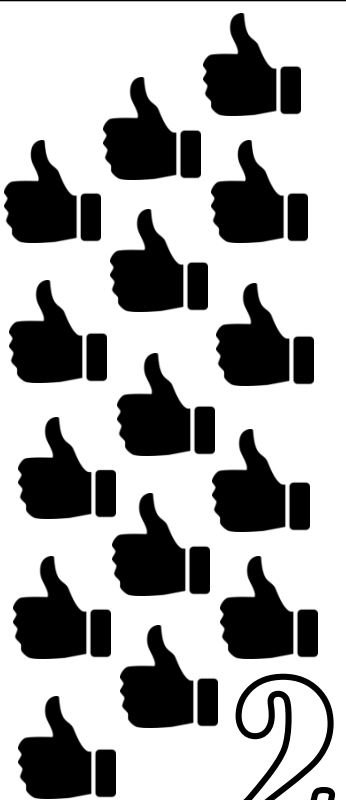


Is It?

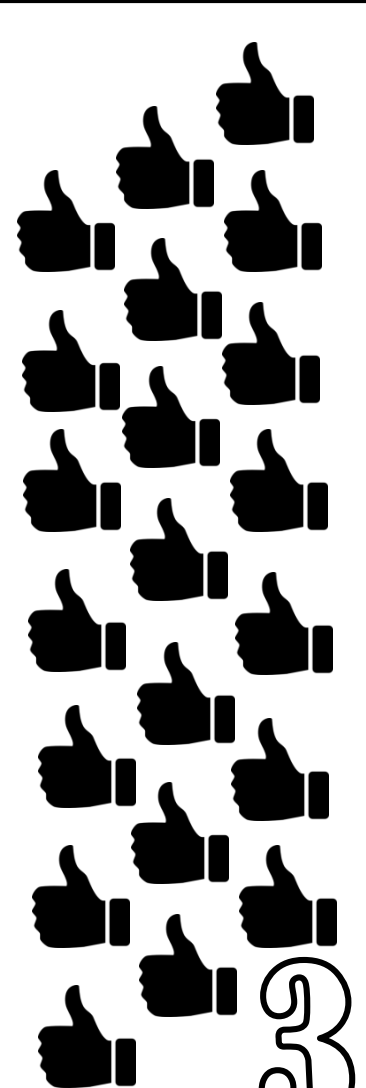
0



1



2



3



4



TO MOST KIDS YOUR AGE,

HOW INTERESTING IS IT *FOR THE OTHER PERSON* IF YOU TALK ABOUT...



...your favorite video game?

...your favorite YouTube videos?

...your favorite toys?

...what you know about something you are an expert on?

...your collection of _____?

...a holiday coming up soon?

...what is for lunch in the cafeteria?

...what weather we are having today?

...how a local sports team is doing?

...a new TV show that is on?

...something good that happened to someone you both know?

...something bad that happened to someone you both know?

...new clothes the other person is wearing?

...music you both like?

...your favorite cartoons?

...a computer game you play almost every day?

...the other person's family?

...shoes the other person is wearing?

...a book you have been reading?

...a book the other person has been reading?

...some cool thing you just learned how to do?

...some cool thing the other person just learned how to do?

...a new I Phone that just came out?

...how hard the homework is in some class?

...something friendly or kind the other person did?

...something the other person is doing wrong they need to change?

...something you own that is better than what the other person has?

...something funny or cute your pet did recently?

...your highest score ever on your favorite video game?

...the other person's after-school activities?



**TO MOST KIDS YOUR AGE,
HOW INTERESTING IS IT *FOR THE OTHER PERSON* IF YOU TALK ABOUT...**



...a picture the other person made?

...bad weather that made school get cancelled?

...something funny that happened in your class?

...what you made out of Lego recently?

...what you are doing with Minecraft recently?

...foods you and the other person both like?

...a website you look at almost every day?

...the instrument the other person is learning to play?

...a new ride at a nearby amusement park?

...the other person's dance lessons?

...places the other person likes to shop?

...your favorite movie you have watched many times?

...a new movie that is playing in theaters?

...a grown-up you both know who won the lottery?

...how the high school sports team won five straight games?

...a new model of Ipad that just came out?

...a video game the other person doesn't play yet but needs to play?

...what you are getting for your birthday in six months?

...what the new school year book is going to be like?

...something crazy a famous actor just said or did?

...stuffed animals you own?

...special things you know that most people don't know much about?

...a new pizza place that just opened up in town?

...trouble the other person got in that everyone is talking about?

...how the other person's dad just got out of the hospital?

...how the other person seems to be catching a cold?

...that the other person just came back after missing a week of school?

...an activity in gym that you hate?

...the other person's best friend made a bad mistake and got in trouble?

...a trip your family took?



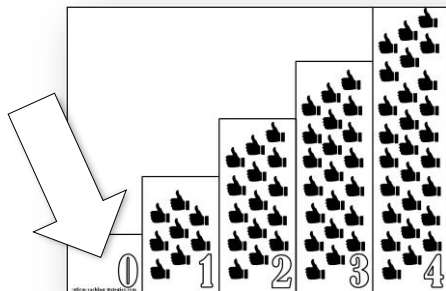
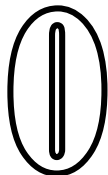
**TO MOST KIDS YOUR AGE,
HOW INTERESTING IS IT *FOR THE OTHER PERSON* IF YOU TALK ABOUT...**



- ...the pictures you see pasted on the other person's notebook?
- ...a test that you and the other person both did bad on?
- ...a Yu-gi-oh card you just got which is very rare
- ...the new job the other person's dad just got?
- ...how irritating and annoying your brother or sister is?
- ...a kid in Math class who makes everyone laugh?
- ...a test coming up that you and the other person both will take?
- ...a skateboard trick you saw the other person do?
- ...someone you both know who won a science award?
- ...the substitute teacher who gave no work and told weird stories?
- ...the other person not wearing glasses as he is supposed to?
- ...what will be the next school play?
- ...a food served in the cafeteria that most people don't like?
- ...the other person's cheerleading competition?
- ...the other person's low grade on a test you did well on?
- ...your five favorite electronic devices?
- ... how your uncle's girlfriend caught a really big fish?
- ...how the other person got the big bruise on her knee?
- ...how the temperature in the classroom is really hot today?
- ...which teacher in school is the meanest or most strict?
- ...a boy or girl you both think is good-looking?
- ...how the principal got mad when some kids ignored the fire drill?
- ...an election coming up to choose the next class president?
- ...how tired you are today?
- ...lots of details about an action movie you saw last night?
- ...how most kids seem to just to talk about dumb, boring things?
- ...how the other team cheated in the game in gym class?
- ...a new student who just transferred to your school?
- ...a website the other person likes that you don't know about?
- ...whether the English teacher's hair color is dyed or natural?

What are 4 things you talk about

that might score about 0 likes with most kids your age?



Your name:

1 Name of thing: _____

Picture of thing

2 Name of thing: _____

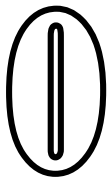
Picture of thing

3 Name of thing: _____

Picture of thing

4 Name of thing: _____

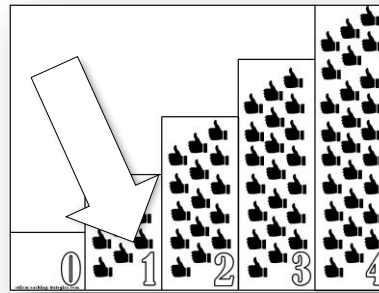
Picture of thing



What are 4 things you can talk about

1

that might score likes in the category with most kids your age?



Your name: _____

1 Name of thing: _____

Picture of thing

2 Name of thing: _____

Picture of thing

3 Name of thing: _____

Picture of thing

4 Name of thing: _____

Picture of thing

0

1

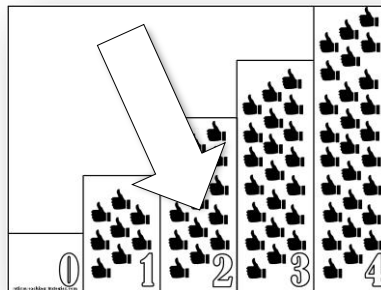
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4

What are 4 things you can talk about

that might score likes in the **2** category with most kids your age?



Your name: _____

1 Name of thing: _____

Picture of thing

2 Name of thing: _____

Picture of thing

3 Name of thing: _____

Picture of thing

4 Name of thing: _____

Picture of thing

0

1

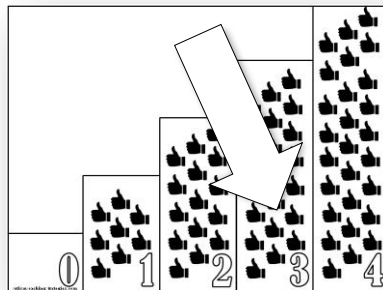
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What are 4 things you can talk about

that might score “likes” in the **3** category with most kids your age?



Your name: _____

1 Name of thing: _____

Picture of thing

2 Name of thing: _____

Picture of thing

3 Name of thing: _____

Picture of thing

4 Name of thing: _____

Picture of thing

0

1

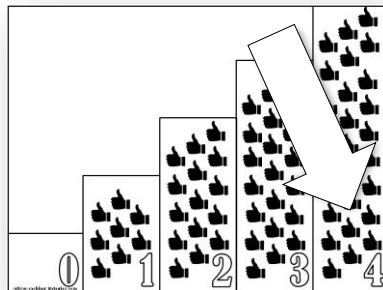
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What are 4 things you can talk about

that might score “likes” in the **4** category with most kids your age?



Your name: _____

1 Name of thing: _____

Picture of thing

2 Name of thing: _____

Picture of thing

3 Name of thing: _____

Picture of thing

4 Name of thing: _____

Picture of thing

0

1

2

3

4