

'ICE BREAKER' - INTRODUCTIONS



Purpose:

- To help the group get to know each other quickly.
- To create a warm, friendly atmosphere.
- To develop conversation skills.
- To have some fun!

Format:

- Ask the children to use their imagination and visualise the following:
(Note: it's important to explain this exercise with enthusiasm, exaggeration and excitement to capture their imagination).

On the floor in front of us is a huge **gold bar**. Across the front of the gold bar is someone's name. Ask one of the children what name they would like on the gold bar?

Sitting on top of the gold bar is a **house**. An ordinary house with a front door, windows on both sides and a chimney. Ask one of the children what colour the house could be.

In one of the windows we can see **two adults** and in the other window we can see **some children**.

Before continuing, ask them as a group to repeat what we have so far.

Sticking out of the chimney, we can see a **blackboard** (or whiteboard). An easel blackboard.

Hovering on top of the blackboard is an **aeroplane**. Ask one of the children what plane they would have (ie. Qantas, Air New Zealand).

Before continuing, ask them as a group to repeat once again what we have so far.

Smashed over one wing of the aeroplane is a **tennis racquet**.

Balanced on the other wing of the aeroplane is a **stamp collection**.

Finally, ask the group to repeat the entire 'picture'.

- The above 'picture' (Conversation Stack) is designed to assist as a prompt for asking suitable questions when getting to know someone for the first time.
- Demonstrate a conversation with one of the children (or one of the mentors) by asking them questions along the following lines, as naturally as possible. Follow on with an appropriate question in relation to the answer, before asking the next question (eg. "What do you like most about your school?"). Conversation style.

'ICE BREAKER' Continued



- What is your name?
 - Where do you live?
 - What family members live with you?
 - Where do you go to school?
 - Where do you go for holidays?
 - What sport do you play or like?
 - What are your hobbies?
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- Explain to the children the connection between the items you asked them to visualise and how this will help them remember questions to ask someone they are talking with for the first time.
 - Note: the gold bar is used because gold is precious and a person's name is very precious to them.
 - Ask the children to pair-off with someone they don't know and to talk with them using this technique. One person asks the questions while the other answers and then they swap around.
 - Re-convene as a group and ask them to introduce their partner to the group. Just their name, where they live and one interesting thing they learnt about them.

