

EduTrend Contents

G4C · SOCIAL SKILLS AND FRIENDSHIP GAMES · MIDDLE SCHOOL

Conversation Ping-Pong

Keep a conversation going with open and follow-up questions while an observer tracks the rally

Ages 11–13	Level: Intermediate	40 minutes	Groups of 3 · up to 30	Activity 03

Inside: activity at a glance · step-by-step session plan · facilitator notes · 3 student worksheets · assessment checklist

ACTIVITY 03 · AT A GLANCE

Conversation Ping-Pong

Two students hold a two-minute conversation on a light topic card. The aim is to keep the "rally" going: ask open questions, follow up on what was said and show listening with face and body. A third student tallies each skill. Roles rotate so everyone talks twice and observes once, then the class compares what kept conversations flowing.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the session students can:

- ask open questions;
- follow up on what was said;
- show listening non-verbally;
- give specific, kind feedback.

KEY WORDS

open question · follow-up · listening · rally · feedback · observer

CURRICULUM LINKS

PSHE: relationships. English: spoken language, discussion.

1	2	3	4	5	6
SETTLE	**EXPLAIN**	**PLAY**	**NOTICE**	**TALK**	**CLOSE**
Calm start	One game, clear rules	Practise the skill	Name good moments	What helped?	Kind and positive

Materials (whole class)

- Topic cards (light, everyday topics)
- Observer tally sheets
- Timer
- Worksheets 1, 2 and 3

Before the session

- Print topic cards and tally sheets.
- Plan mixed groups of three.
- Model a short rally with a student.
- Agree kind feedback rules.

SAFETY

Use light, everyday topics only. Students may swap a topic card they do not want.

ACTIVITY 03 · SESSION PLAN

Step by step

Name one skill to focus on per round so feedback stays specific.

Time	What happens	Say or ask
0–5 min **Settle**	Closed versus open question warm-up.	*"Which question keeps it going?"*
5–10 min **Explain**	Model a rally; show the tally sheet.	*"What did the follow-up do?"*
10–32 min **Play**	Three rounds, roles rotate.	*"What did the observer notice?"*
32–40 min **Close**	Compare tallies and set a target.	*"What kept the rally going?"*

CHALLENGE CARD (print or copy onto the board)

Keep a two-minute conversation going with at least two follow-up questions.

ACTIVITY 03 · FACILITATOR NOTES

The friendship game know-how in brief

Follow-up questions show that you listened, which helps people feel valued.

Observers learn the skills by noticing them in others.

Common ideas to listen for

- “Good talkers talk the most.” Good conversations are balanced.
- “Silence means failure.” A short pause is normal.
- “Questions must be clever.” Simple follow-ups work well.

Adapting the activity

Support

Provide a question starter bank: What, How, Why, Tell me more about…

Stretch

Add a rule: link a follow-up to something said earlier in the rally.

WORKSHEET 1

Observer tally

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Tally each skill.

Tally

Skill	Speaker A	Speaker B
Open question		
Follow-up		
Listening signal		

WORKSHEET 2

Question bank

Turn closed questions into open ones.

Questions

Closed question	Open version

WORKSHEET 3

My target

Reflect.

Next time I will...

FOR THE TEACHER

Assessment checklist

Use during the session. One sheet covers up to eight students; copy as needed.

Student	Asks open questions	Follows up	Gives specific feedback

Suggested codes: W = working towards · E = expected · G = greater depth

ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

Conversation Ping-Pong is a sample activity from the EduTrend Contents G4C Social Skills and Friendship Games programme (middle school, level: intermediate). Every activity in the programme follows the same format: a practical challenge, a clear session plan, facilitator notes and ready-to-print worksheets, so that teachers, club leaders and parents can run it without extra preparation.

Full 15-, 20- and 32-week programmes are available from EduStore at edutrend.org.

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