

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Topic: English – ‘Let’s talk’ - Communication

### Reading/Discussion:

"The time has come," the Walrus said,  
"To talk of many things:  
Of shoes--and ships--and sealing-wax--  
Of cabbages--and kings--  
And why the sea is boiling hot--  
And whether pigs have wings"  
(Lewis Carroll 1872).

Read the verse above, which is from Lewis Carroll’s poem, The Walrus and the Carpenter. The Walrus has come up with all sorts of topics to talk about, but right now we just want to talk about talking. When two or more people talk together we call that a conversation. Did you know that there are rules for conversation, just as there are rules for school, for home and for sports? Can you think of some of the rules? Here are the most important ones:

- Take turns
- Listen to each other
- Respond appropriately

‘Respond appropriately’ – what does it mean? It means that what you say when it is your turn to speak should have something to do with what your friend said before you. It is one way of showing that you were listening properly.

There are other ways in which you can show someone you are listening to them. We are going to think of some of them now.

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**Activities:**

A. Read the verse from the Walrus and the Carpenter again

With a friend, choose one of the topics the Walrus suggested (Some of them are very silly, aren't they!), and practice holding a conversation. Remember the rules!

B. How well did I listen?

Did you really listen while your friend was talking? (or were you only thinking about what you were going to say?) Did your friend really listen to you? How could you tell? Write down three ways you can show someone that you are listening to what they are saying.

C. Can you respond appropriately?

Read the sentences below and then write your response to them. There is no right or wrong answer, as long as you respond appropriately.

Friend: Imagine if the sea really was boiling hot!

You:

Friend: I don't see why pigs couldn't have wings – bats do.

You:

Friend: Why would anyone want to talk about cabbages?

You:

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## Answer Sheet

### Activity B

Here are some suggestions, the children might come up with others:

- Looking at the person who is talking.
- Nodding or shaking your head.
- Using facial expressions such as smiling or frowning.
- Using interjections such as 'Hmm', 'yes', 'oh', etc.