## **Speaking and Listening Activities**



In this pack you will find three different activities that are all designed to improve your speaking and listening skills. Through using language and hearing how others use it, you will be able to describe the world, make sense of life's experiences and improve your confidence. These activities will provide opportunities for you to develop and improve some extremely **important speaking**, **listening** and thinking skills. We hope you enjoy them.

#### Speaking and listening games to develop reading and writing

#### **Construct some conjunctions chains**

Using conjunctions is a good game to play. It is where you say half a sentence with a conjunction, such as 'I really wanted to get a dog, however...' and then try to finish the sentence verbally. Try to finish the sentence in as many ways as possible.

#### Super-charge adjectives and adverbs

Expand your vocabulary, find various pictures from books and magazines. Describe the picture using the best five adjectives you can think of. If there is any movement in the picture, could you use a powerful verb to describe it? Could you add an adverb to this? See if you can plan a story (in writing) centred on this picture, and then present the story verbally to someone in your family.

#### **Discuss current events**

Look at non-fiction texts and talk about the way it is laid out. For example: look at a newspaper article and see if you can name any of the features of the text (headline, picture, caption, paragraph, quotations). Read through the newspaper article and see if you can sum up verbally what it was about to someone in your family.

#### Start a debate

Debates are an excellent way of finding your voice through sharing opinions and facts, but it also helps you find your ears too by patiently listening and respecting the views of others. Suggest a topic you have an opinion about and debate this at home. It's a great way of getting the whole family involved and you will certainly improve your confidence in your communication skills. You never know, you might find you are a budding politician when sitting at the dinner table.

It may be a good idea for you think of a subject, for example: discussing whether technology is good for children, or whether the lottery is a good idea. Encourage your parents and other family members to say what they think and back up their opinion with plenty of examples.

#### Be persuasive

For another challenging exercise, find an item in the house that they must try to sell to a family member. Look at adverts, highlighting persuasive words and phrases that they use. Then write a 'pitch' and attempt to memorise it! Present your pitch to a family member and get them to ask you plenty of questions which you need to think up the answers to, can you convince them that your product is the best? If you have a brother or sister, you could ask them to be rival salesperson! This is fun and lively activity and you could even use your computing skills to design a PowerPoint presentation to support your pitch!

#### **Use your senses**

You need to work in at groups of two or more for these activities. They are all linked to using a specific sense. We hope you enjoy them.

Sound mapping Sense: hearing

Skills: responding to instructions, participating in discussion

What you'll need: An outdoor space A2 or A3 sheets of paper

Marker pens

#### How to play:

Lie on the ground looking at the sky and close your eyes and spend 60 seconds listening. Count how many sounds you can hear. The longer you wait, the more sounds you might notice

Can you create a map of all the sounds you hear? Create the maps on large sheets of paper. Can you draw the outline of a person in your family in the centre and write all the sounds you heard in the surrounding space, drawing arrows from the person to each sound. The length of the arrow should represent the distance from the source of the sound (short for close, long for far away) and the thickness of the arrow should represent the volume (thick for loud and thin for quiet).

#### Feely bags Sense: touch

**Skills:** asking relevant questions, giving structured descriptions, participating in discussions.

What you'll need:

Items from nature – pine cones, tree bark, pebbles, sticks, leaves and so on.

A large bag

#### How to play:

Fill a bag with a number of natural items. There should be five different types of item and enough in total for each person who is playing to have three items each. However, ensure that you have an unequal number of each item, eg seven pine cones, nine pebbles, seven sticks, eight leaves and five pieces of tree bark.

Blindfold one of you and pass the bag around. Each person picks the first three items they touch. You can touch and investigate all of their items (without looking at them) but cannot pass them to anyone else. Through discussion, you must determine the five different types of item and the quantity of each.

#### Crisp tasting

Sense: taste

**Skills:** asking relevant questions, articulating answers and opinions.

What you'll need:

Bags of crisps (assorted flavours)

Small plastic containers or bags eg yoghurt pots or zip-lock bags

#### How to play:

You will need a few large bags of different flavoured crisps. Split the crisps into small containers (without seeing what the flavours are), and distribute the containers amongst you so each person playing has three or more different containers. Everyone must then work out how many different flavours of crisps there are, and what flavours they have in their containers.

The catch is that you cannot eat your own crisps! You must approach another player, ask them to eat one of their crisps and then ask them questions about the crisp for the player to answer. They can then return the favour with one of their crisps. There should be a list of 'taboo' words to stop players simply saying 'it's cheese and onion!'

#### **Pongy perfumes**

Sense: smell

**Skills:** gaining and maintaining the attention of listeners, giving structured descriptions and explanations.

What you'll need:

Plastic cups

Strongly scented items from nature – flowers, pine needles and so on

#### How to play:

You will need be in pairs and each pair needs a plastic cup. The task is for pairs to create a unique perfume in their cup by finding natural items and mixing them all together with some 'pixie juice' (water with food colouring!). When you have created your perfumes, each pair must then come up with a sales pitch to try and persuade the other pair to buy their perfume. The pitch should describe the scent, explain why you picked the ingredients you did and convince the other pair that this is the next big thing.

#### **Un-nature trail**

Sense: sight

**Skills:** articulating answers, giving structured explanations.

What you'll need:

An outdoor space to plan a short trail

Man-made objects – bricks, toys, cardboard boxes and so on

#### How to play:

Choose a short route to follow for your trail – through some woods or a green space. Along the trail, place a number of un-natural things: bricks, toys, cardboard boxes and so on. Take a family member on a walk along the route. The family member must spot as many un-natural items as they can. Then ask them to clean up all the unnatural items, but only by picking items that answer your questions. For example, ask them to bring back the most useful item they can find. When they have returned ask them to explain why they selected that item ('it's all that was left' is not a good enough answer!).

#### Thinking Games

These questions are designed to get you thinking about your answers and be able to give reasons for your choices.

If you have a printer at home then ask if you can print them out. Then you can cut around the question and mix them up so you are not sure what question could come next.

See if you can play with different people in your house as it is interesting to listen to their answers. Maybe you will change your thinking by listening to them? You could even ask a question to someone you speak to on the phone or on a zoom call. It will spark a debate and great conversation.

Enjoy 😊

When you get home there is a giant lump under your carpet. What could it be and how did it get there?



Look at this wrapped object what could it be, where has it come from?



(wrapped gift on each table funny shapes)

### Thinking Card

Look at this track, what left it, where has it come from why was it



here?

You can only save three things from your house (doesn't include people) what would you save and why?



You walk into class and instead of your teacher you find Goldilocks sitting in her chair. She tells you, that you can ask three auestions which would you pick and why?

## Thinking Card

You open your eyes one morning and everything in the room is pink, why?



What is that wonderful smell, what does it make you think of and why?



## Thinking Card

You can hear scratching noises what could it be and where is it coming from?

The three little pigs want to build another house. Suggest three new materials they could use and why.

## Thinking Card

You find a message in a bottle. What does the message say?



You can invite three celebrities for tea. Who would you choose and why?



## Thinking Card

You can invite three book or nursery rhyme characters for tea. Who would you choose and why?



As you run up the stairs to bed you notice a little door on one of the steps. Where has it come from? Who lives behind it?

## Thinking Card

Look at this collection of objects or picture of objects who do you think owns them and why?



Listen to this piece of music and tell your partner three things it made you think of or feel and why?



### Thinking Card

Look at the clouds in the sky or photo of clouds and describe what it looks like to you



What would an octopus pack in his suitcase? Why?



## Thinking Card

Where would a dwarf go to on holiday? Why?



What would Sleeping Beauty pack in her suitcase? Why?



## Thinking Card

Where would Beauty and the Beast go to on holiday? Why?



What would Snow White choose for her birthday tea and why?



## Thinking Card

If you could climb a ladder up into the clouds what would it be like there?



Look at this photo of people on a bus
- who is going where? Where have
they come from? What do they
think of the person next them?
Someone gets on who would they sit
by? Who would you sit by and why?



If you had to go on journey to moon which two story characters would you choose to go with and why?



## Thinking Card

Which joke made him laugh?



You get 3 wishes, what are they and what happens when you get them?



## Thinking Card

You open a magical door and walk through-where does it take you?



Look at the picture what can you see, what do you think you would smell, how does it make you feel? What questions could you ask?

Picture of a location

## Thinking Card

What can you tell me about this person? Who is it? What are they like? What do they enjoy doing?



Convince me that the banana is the best fruit ever?
Why is it better than the other fruits?

## Thinking Card



Name as many towns and cities in Britain as you can.





If you met a cave man what would you ask him?

## Thinking Card

If you could interview King Henry VIII what would you ask him?



If you could visit a time in history where and when would you go? Why?



### Thinking Card

If you could travel in Dr Who's Tardis where and when would you go? (remember you can go back or forwards in time)

If you could interview Queen
Victoria what would you want to ask
her?



## Thinking Card

Look at a picture of an animal- What do you think this creature is thinking? Where's is come from? What's it going to do next?

If you could invent a new word for the dictionary what would it be? What does it mean? Is it a noun, verb, adjective etc?

## Thinking Card

You notice a big hole in the ground with a sign saying enter. Where will it lead you? What will the place be like?

You are sat on the rug in front of the fire, suddenly it lifts up and begins to float in the air. Where would you ask it to take you and why?

### Thinking Card

One morning you wake up and you realise you can talk to animals. What would your pet dog say to you?



If you could shrink to the size of a pepperpot what would you do?
Where would you go? Why?



## Thinking Card

Describe your dream bedroom.



How would you help Humpty Dumpty?



## Thinking Card

What would you ask the Cow after she jumped over the moon?



If you could invent anything what would it do, look like and be called?



## Thinking Card

If you could design a new medicine what would it make better?



If you could design a new animal what would it look like, what would it do and what would you call it? It could be a mixture of several animals eg an eleilla (cross between an elephant and a gorilla)

#### Thinking Card

If you had to be all one colour what would you be and why?



If you were the three bears what would you do about Goldilocks?



## Thinking Card

What would you say to Little Red Riding Hood if you met her?



You arrive in your classroom to find it is the year 2099.

What's different?

2099

### Thinking Card

Name as many countries in the world as you can.



Which story character would you like to be for a day and why?



## Thinking Card

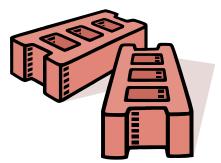
If you could make a wish for someone else what would it be and who for?

How would you improve your school?



## Thinking Card

10 things you could do with one brick.



If the answer is sky, what is the question?



## Thinking Card

If you could go back in time where would you go? Why? What would you do?



If you could have tea with anyone in the world (dead or alive) Who would it be? Why? What would you talk about?

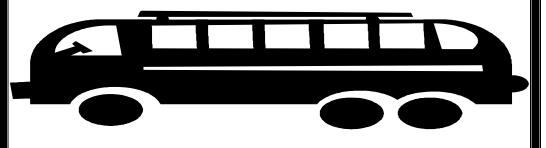


## Thinking Card

Magic is all around you've been transported to any fantasy you wish. Who do you want to talk to what will you ask them?



You get on a bus, where does it take you and what do you do?



## Thinking Card

You meet a child from another country. What questions would you ask them and why?



What questions would you ask a famous footballer?



## Thinking Card

You borrow a library book, you open it up and a note falls out. What does it say and who is it from?



Give three ideas for things
Goldilocks could do to make friends
with the bears and say sorry.



### Thinking Card

Prepare three questions to ask the giant who lives at the top of the beanstalk.

Who would be in your football/cricket/netball/rounders team and why?



### Thinking Card

You wake up one day and the whole world is in black and white - which colour would you miss the most and why?

If you could make a potion to do anything what potion would you make? Why? Who would you give it to?



### Thinking Card

What questions you would ask a prince or princess?



You find a strange creature in your garden one night - describe it.



## Thinking Card

What rules would you have if you were head teacher for the day?



If you could meet Superman what would you say to him?



## Thinking Card

If you were to interview the Queen what would you ask her and why?



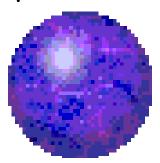
You wake up in the morning and go down to breakfast. There are 3 famous people sat at your table. Who are they and why do they say they are there? What do they eat?

## Thinking Card

If you could interview the Prime Minister what would you ask him and why?



The answer is purple, what could the question be?



## Thinking Card

You have the power to invent a new country what would it be like?



The answer is 3, what could the question be?



## Thinking Card

Describe the most scary creature you can imagine.



Which material is the best to make a raincoat for teddy? How would you find out what is the best one and why?



## Thinking Card

You find an invisibility cloak, where would you go? What would you want to see and why?

What present would you most like to give/receive? Why?

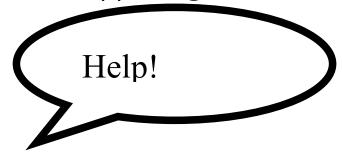


### Thinking Card

If you had a time machine where would you travel to? The future or the past? What would you like to see? Why?



"Help!" squeaked the tiny voice. Who was it, where did it come from, what was happening?



## Thinking Card

What would you find in the queen's pocket?



Think of five things that often get thrown into the bin and how you could save them and reuse them, what would you choose and how would you use them?



### Thinking Card

How many different uses can you think of for an old newspaper?



Why do you think the farmer's wife cut off the mice's tails? What had happened to cause this?







## Thinking Card

Bananas in pyjamas are coming down the stairs, can you think of any other silly rhymes for fruit like this?



What would you create out of all the old milk cartons for school and how?



### Thinking Card

Would you like four and twenty blackbirds baked in a pie? If not what would be better?



What machine would you like to invent? What would it do? How would it work?

### Thinking Card

What happened to the troll when he was pushed off the bridge by the big billy goat gruff?

The cottage in Hansel and Gretel was made of gingerbread and sweets. What would you like to see a cottage made of?

### Thinking Card

How can gingerbread man get across the river without going on the fox? Build a boat maybe but out of what? Maybe you've got another idea?



If there were 8 dwarves and not 7, what would the 8th one be called, what would it look like, would you have a girl dwarf? Give reasons.

# Thinking Card

Look at this £5 note, where has it been until now?



At the end of your garden there is a ladder. Where does it go to? Where did it come from?

## Thinking Card

What does a dragon do for fun? Why?



Would you rather be 6 metres tall or 6cm. Why?

## Thinking Card

You are a fly on the wall. Who's wall and why? What can you see and hear?

Look at this face, what do you think person is feeling, thinking? Why?

Need photo of face showing emotion

### Thinking Card

In the middle of the night, you are awakened by a loud bang and a bright light is shining through the window onto your bed. What is the bright light? Where did it come from? Is there anybody out there?

Those odd socks that always appear. Where does the other one go? Why when you find a sock is it an odd one? What is going on with socks?



## Thinking Card

That shoe, on its own, that you spot as you're driving along, just lying there in the road. Where has it come from why is it there?



A telephone in a telephone box is ringing... you decide to answer it... who is it? What do they want?



## Thinking Card

How would you describe 'the ideal friend'?



If you could be the teacher for the day, what would you teach?

## Thinking Card

If you could be any film, which one would you be and why?



What are the best bits of this year?

Your life so far?



### Thinking Card

You are sent to a desert island for a whole month!! What 1 (or 2) items would you take and why?

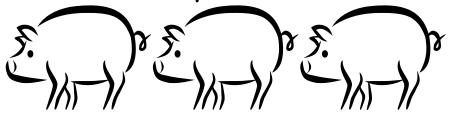


A letter drops on your doormat. It looks different you can't quite put your finger on it, its addressed to you, carefully you open it feeling that this moment could be the start of a change in your life. What is in the envelope?

### Thinking Card

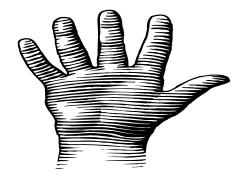
The wind is blowing, the window panes are rattling, the skies are darkening.... How would you be feeling? Why?

Why are there 3 little pigs? Why not 4?



# Thinking Card

Why do we have 5 fingers?



Why does Winnie The Pooh eat honey?



## Thinking Card

If you could change the colour of the sky, what would you change it to and why?



You wake one morning and the end of a rainbow is in your garden. What magic might you find there?



#### Thinking Card

You can hear a banging noise coming from the top of the stairs. You creep up the stairs and head for the room where the noise is coming from. As you approach the room the banging is louder. You place your hand on the door knob and gently turn it before entering the room. What is making the banging noise?

If you could spend the day being someone else (real or imaginary, dead or alive) who would you be, why and what would you do?

### Thinking Card

You wake up one day and just like in Bill's New Frock you've changed sex for the day. What would be better and what would be worse than normal about your day?

If you could choose your ideal home what would it be, trailer, boat, castle, something else? Why?



#### Thinking Card

If you were to be remembered for hundreds or thousands of years what would you like to be remembered for?

Would you prefer to be a cat or a dog? Why?



## Thinking Card

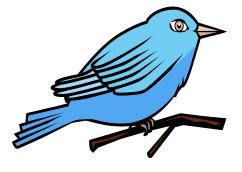
The snow has changed colour. What colour is it? Why?



It's a small world so which countries would you like to have in you own small world and why?

## Thinking Card

A bluebird is on your windowsill singing to you, what is it saying?

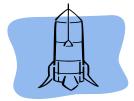


A golden rose blooms on your mother's red rose bush. Where did it come from? What will it do?



#### Thinking Card

If you could go into space, what would you most like to do or see?



If you could talk to anybody from the past, who would it be? What would you want to ask?



## Thinking Card

You wake up one morning and you have turned into a pencil/ pen. Who would you write to? What would you write and why?



If you could be in any TV programme which one would you choose and what type of character would you be?



### Thinking Card

What kind of electrical appliance would you be and why?



Which character would you be from Winnie the Pooh and why?

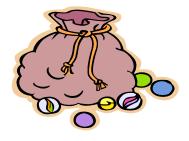


## Thinking Card

The answer is 44, what was the question?



How many marbles can you fit in a milk bottle?

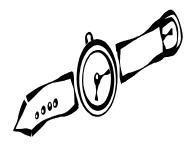


## Thinking Card



An alien has dropped into your house this morning for breakfast. What would you give him and why?

My watch has stopped at 9.15 am. Why? What has happened?



## Thinking Card

Who do you think lives here? Why?





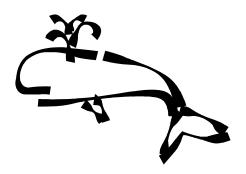
Look at this shell from the seasidewho do you think has picked this up and why? Where do you think it's been?

## Thinking Card

Which Disney character would you choose to be and why?

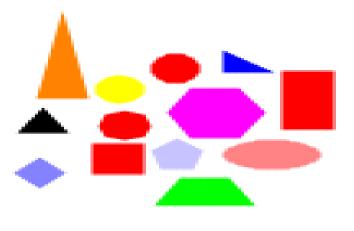


How do you think Jonah felt inside the whale?



# Thinking Card

What is the best shape and why?



Would you rather be rich or happy?
Why?





## Thinking Card

You win the 'special lottery'. The conditions are that you need to find four extraordinary things to win. What four things would you choose? Why?

Describe an object to your partner without saying the name of the object.

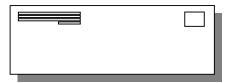
All pairs need an object

## Thinking Card

You have the chance to be an adult for a day. What would you do? Why?



A letter has arrived on the mat for your long lost Uncle. He was a spy. What could the letter say? What would you do with it? Why?



### Thinking Card

You send a text message to a friend, they don't receive it, where has it gone?

It was a top secret message, has it been intercepted by a spy? What did the message say? What will they do with the information?

If you could say one thing to your pet, that they would understand, what would it be? Why?



## Thinking Card

What do goldfish dream about?

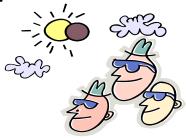


Which emotion would you bottle and why?



## Thinking Card

There is an eclipse, everyone is watching in awe and wonder, but the Sun doesn't reappear. What would happen to the world?



If cats barked and dogs meowed, would cats still be afraid of dogs?



## Thinking Card

Why does an ostrich have wings?



Which sounds have you never heard?



# Thinking Card

Do cows like the taste of grass?



What does the tooth fairy do with all the teeth?



## Thinking Card

Does Santa get presents if he's naughty?



If Little Jack Horner didn't pull a plum out of his pie, what did he pull out from the pie?

# Thinking Card

Where did little Miss Muffet run to?

Old Mother Hubbard was granted one wish for one item of food to be put into her cupboard. What would it have been?

## Thinking Card

You have the chance to meet Willie Wonka. What new sweet would you design? What would it taste like?

Do? etc..





Mary Mary Quite Contrary, How does your garden grow? With silver bells and cockle shells and pretty maids all in a row.

If you could grow anything in a garden what would you grow? Why?

## Thinking Card

What does a teacher do for fun?



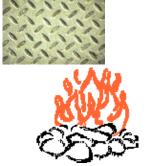
How many baked beans in a tin?



# Thinking Card

earth fire water metal

Which element would you be and why?





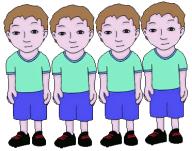


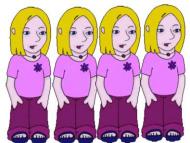
What would happen if there was no sun?



## Thinking Card

What would be the positives and negatives if we all looked the same?





What would be the positives and negatives if we lived in bouncy castles?



What is the best age to be? Why?



As you look at a map of the world, one of the countries calls your name and invites you in, which country would it be?

## Thinking Card

If you could have 1 special power what would it be?



You are a balloon flying freely through the sky what are the 3 most exciting things that happen to you?

## Thinking Card

Why is the sky blue?



If you got in a car and it asked you where you wanted to go, where would you say?



## Thinking Card

How do you know something exists if you cannot see it-like the wind, your soul, etc?



You have won £1000 but have to spend it in one day. What would you buy?





## Thinking Card

Where do things go when you delete them from a computer?



What's the largest number of things that you can think of? E.g grains of sand, stars in the sky.





## Thinking Card

Is it possible to stop thinking?



You have been asked to nominate a friend for Friend of the Year. Who would you nominate and why?



### Thinking Card

Where does the sky meet the ground? Is there something in between?



Which character from Lord of the Rings would you be and why?

## Thinking Card

If you could only eat 3 foods for the rest of the year which would they be and why?



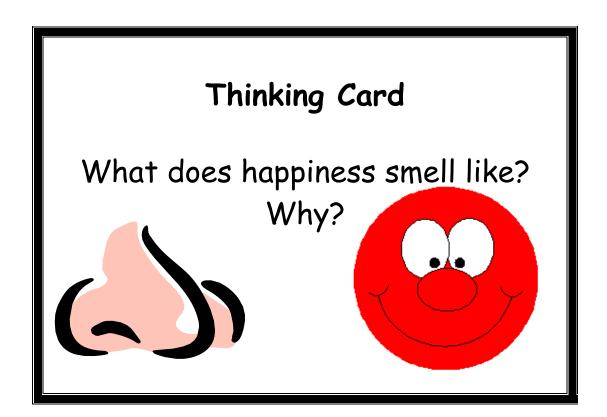


You're on the beach with your friend digging in the sand and find a pirate's treasure map. What do you do, where do you go, do you find the treasure?

## Thinking Card

You pick up a piece of drift wood from the beach. What's its history?





What would life be like if we walked on our hands?





You find a dirty old penny on the floor, you pick it up and give it a rub it starts to glisten and then tremble.

What happens next?

## Thinking Card

If the first 6 things you touched turned to solid gold which things would you touch and why?

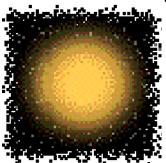
You are surrounded by water. Where could you be?



### Thinking Card

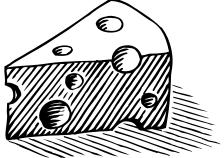
You find a trapdoor in your garden that you have never seen before. What's down there and who was there last?

Its getting hotter and darker as you travel on. Where are you going?



## Thinking Card

Why do mice like cheese? Do they?



You are cold - why?



## Thinking Card

When you try to leave through the door it won't open





A new law is introduced which means smells have to be paid for. You can only afford one! Which smell would it be and why?

### Thinking Card

You are wearing a jumper made of knitted spaghetti - convince your partner this is the height of fashion and they should get one.







A new law is introduced which means colours have to be paid for. You can only afford one! Which colour would it be and why?

## Thinking Card

Why is the dog chasing the cat?





A box is delivered by accident to your house. What's in it?



### Thinking Card

What do clouds feel like?



Do aliens exist? What are they like?



### Thinking Card

Why do cars have 4 wheels and not 5/6/7?



If you could see through the eyes of a painting, who would you spy on?



### Thinking Card

If you could be somebody else for a day, who would it be and why?



You have been asked to think of a name for the spaceship going to Mars. What would you call it and why?

### Thinking Card

How big is hundred acre wood?



You've got a million pounds that you HAVE to give to charity. Which one?



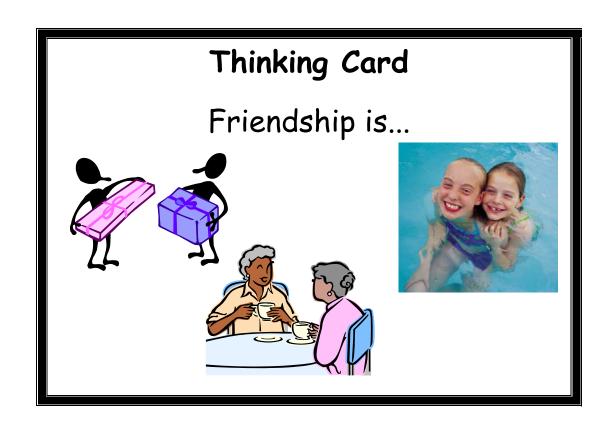


### Thinking Card

If you could choose the headlines for a day, what would they be? Why?





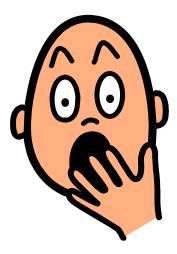


Happiness is...



# Thinking Card

Fear is ...



What are the three most important things in life? Why?



### Thinking Card

You're feeling nervous, Why?



If you could be any animal for a day which one would you choose to be?

Why?

### Thinking Card

You're a mouse? What are the challenges of your day?



You wake up and you're bald? Why?
What will you do?



#### Thinking Card

You can only take 6 objects with you, you are being dropped into a forest with no other people around for at least 5 days. What will you take?

Why?



What is the best birthday present you have ever received?



# Thinking Card

Describe your fantasy cake?

