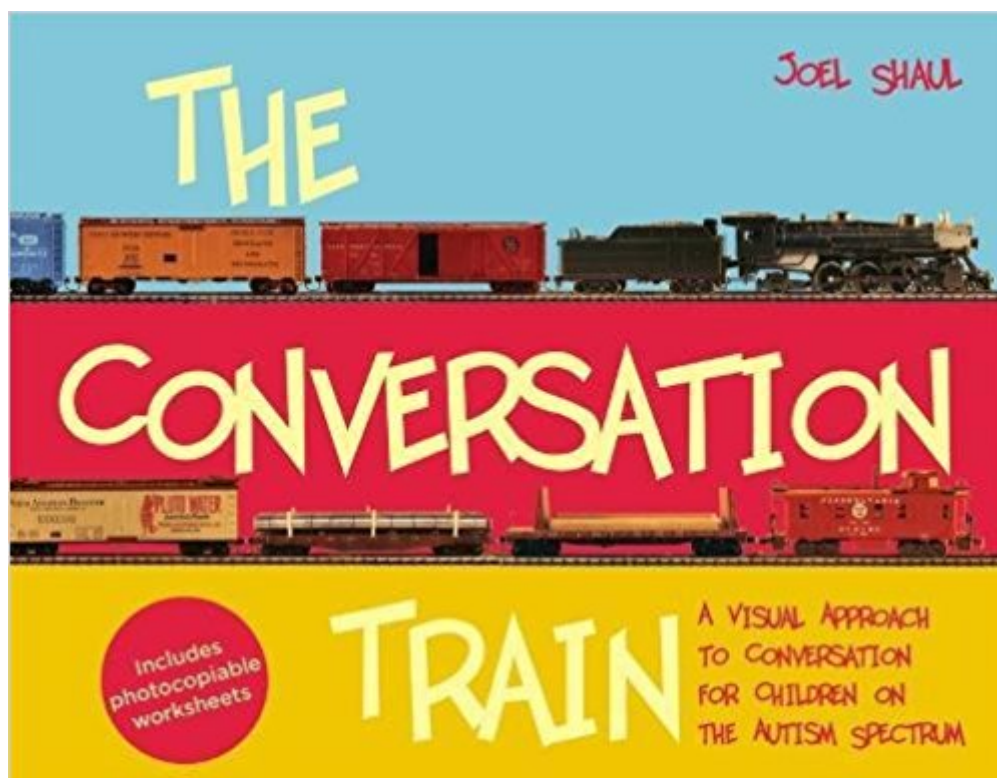




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The Conversation Train: A Visual Approach To Conversation For Children On The Autism Spectrum



Synopsis

This inventive colour picture book uses the metaphor of a train to teach basic conventions of conversation to children with autism spectrum disorders (ASDs). Engines are like greetings; they get the train going. Freight wagons are like different speakers' turns; it is good to have at least a few when you are in conversation. A set of points guiding a train from one track to another is like a tactful change in the topic of conversation. When a conversation veers off-topic it is like a derailed train. As well as attractive colour photographs of trains, the book contains engaging photocopiable worksheets and colouring pages to help promote skill generalisation. This highly visual approach to conversation is ideally suited to children with ASDs aged approximately 5-13.

Book Information

Hardcover: 72 pages

Publisher: Jessica Kingsley Publishers; 2 edition (March 10, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1849059861

ISBN-13: 978-1849059862

Product Dimensions: 11.2 x 0.4 x 8.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 20 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #113,580 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #35 in Books > Reference >

Etiquette > Conversation #147 in Books > Parenting & Relationships > Special Needs >

Disabilities #190 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Special Needs

Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

Customer Reviews

This book is a vital tool for anyone teaching conversation skills! The Conversation Train is packed with engaging locomotive imagery connecting the aspects of conversation with trains in a tangible way. It explores advanced conversation issues such as a "derailed" conversation, or expanding interactions by "making the train longer". This interactive format capitalizes on the natural appeal of trains, offering specific teaching cues to support positive peer interactions. A must-have for any elementary teacher or parent. --Jill Kozma, Speech-Language Pathologist, Minneapolis, MA

This is a really clever and helpful book aimed at giving autistic children a better understanding of how everyday conversations work, using the analogy of a steam train... using illustrations of the freight wagons, the author shows how important turn-taking is in conversation... It's very appealingly done, and there are photocopiable worksheets at the back for reinforcement and assessment. This is a very high-quality resource, confidently recommended. (ACHUKA Reviews)

The Conversation Train: A Visual Approach to Conversation for Children on the Autism Spectrum is a unique, one of a kind book that cleverly uses a train analogy for teaching conversation... at the end of the book there is a section of worksheets for the child to complete that can be copied... I would love to see this book in every library and elementary school classroom because so many now do include children with autism. (Horizons - Autism Society of Michigan Quarterly Newsletter)

I really enjoyed how the book breaks down each element of a conversation, has several examples and then has visuals to help support the child's own conversations. I can see how practical a book like this would be for a verbal child who is struggling with how to enter, maintain and end a conversation. (eyes on autism (Australia))

This author, an American Clinical Social Worker who specializes in Autistic Spectrum Disorder, uses the metaphor of a train to help children who find conversation difficult to gain control over the conventions... This is an interesting, imaginative and well illustrated guide for anyone seeking to help a young person with ASD to feel more confident when sharing a conversation. (The School Librarian (SL))

Using a steam freight train as a metaphor, this picture book is aimed at helping children on the autistic spectrum learn conversational skills... The book is a simple concept in simple sentences that will be reasonably easily grasped by children who find holding conversations difficult, and the pictures of the train will hold interest. This is a marvelous tool in the autistic spectrum world, and will provide fun as well as learning. (Healthy Books blog)

My son is 5 years old with selective mutism and social anxiety among other things (Tourette's, OCD, SPD, etc). When he is around people he doesn't know very well he won't talk at all but in a comfortable situation (usually with neighbors, relatives, family friends), he won't stop talking. He interrupts, changes topics, and walks away in the middle of the conversation. These are probably all normal 5 year old traits but I know his anxiety feeds into it as well. It also is starting to affect him socially. Our block has a wide range of ages and the kids who are just slightly older than him get kind of annoyed sometimes. This book has been a huge help. It describes the parts of conversation as the parts of a train...perfect for my train lover...and gives us a way to talk about conversation. We'd tried for a long time to explain about not answering what someone else says with an unrelated thought but now we just say, "Oops, you derailed the train," and he stops and responds to what the

other person said. So grateful for books like this!

I really, really love using this book with my ASD clients. I work with children up to age 6 on the spectrum and this book really seems to get the point across for my kiddos. My only unhappiness with the book is that it says "autism" in a few places, and I have a number of clients who can read, but are not yet at the point of understanding their diagnosis (as well as parents who are not comfortable with the label).

I feel like this book should be given to every grade-schooler....and a lot of adults too! It's just a great visual way for kids - all kids - to get that there is some give and take in a conversation. We find we've incorporated the language into our every day lives.

Great book! Absolutely worth its higher price. Pairs perfectly with The Green Zone, another book by Shaul. Enjoyable for kids both on and not on the spectrum, making it a good choice for reading in a mixed group. Makes the flow of conversation concrete and easy to understand. Includes practice.

It's a clever idea for our train-obsessed autistic kids, but it didn't really capture mine's interest. The pictures and terms are pretty old-fashioned. I ended up returning it.

A very nice quality book that explains the parts of a conversation and staying on topic. I might like to get a train set to explain this physically since a lot of my kids who like trains don't actually know that much about them. Worksheets on back are nice though a CD might be a nice option since many of them copy kind of dark.

My students LOVE this book. The idea of the conversation train has proven extremely useful to teach how to have a conversation.

just bought this and I love the clear visuals and straight forward language for teaching topic maintenance - just wish a digital copy was available so I could use it in whole class lessons!

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