

Dear Parents,

This year, one of my goals is for your kindergartner to learn discussion skills. This involves being able to contribute knowledge and beliefs about the topic while not interrupting or monopolizing the discussion. We will be forming small groups of five or six children to discuss a topic relevant to our studies. This time, we will be discussing the likenesses and differences of our classmates. This might include noting common physical attributes, number of siblings, pets, interests, etc. We will also discuss how we are unique. Much of our discussion will hinge on the learning we acquired in looking at the "All About Me Sacks". Because children like to earn points in various activities, I will be scoring the discussion. We have a group goal of fifteen points per discussion. I am including a scoring sheet so that you can help your child practice their positive discussion skills and avoid discussion pitfalls such as speaking off topic. We will have two small group discussions next Monday and Tuesday. A sample score sheet is attached.

We will have a series of these discussions through out the year. It would be helpful if you would encourage discussions skills such as contributing their knowledge and beliefs without monopolizing the discussion. If you have any questions or concerns, please call me at

Thanks for your support.

Sincerely,

Scored Discussion Sheet

Positive Points

2 pts

Tell what you think about the topic.

2pts

Ask a question about the topic.

1 pt.

Say something you learned about the topic.

1 pt.

Invite a classmate to speak about the topic.

Negative Points

-2 pts

Not paying attention or bothering someone.

-1 pt.

Being off topic.

-1 pt.

Talking too much.

Name: