

MATES Junior Activity Resource Guide

Goal: **Communication Skills**

Activity Type: Individual, group
Relationship Stage: Any

Activity Name:

"Connect the Dots"

Objective:

For the mentee to practice impromptu speaking out loud

Preparation Time:

5 minutes for creating word cards

Activity Duration:

15-45 minutes, depending on the number of players and how many turns each player gets

Required Material:

- Word cards
- Bag/box for cards to be picked out of

Instructions:

- Write up a set of word cards, with each card having one noun on it (e.g., horse, pineapple, desk, sunglasses, motorcycle, etc). The number of cards required will depend on the number of players and how many turns each player gets. Try and have about 10 cards per person.
- Place all the cards in a box or bag to be drawn out of.
- Each player takes a turn pulling out two cards. They then tell a short story which connects the two nouns together. It should be more than just a sentence (e.g., "I left my *sunglasses* on the teacher's *desk*" wouldn't suffice), but it doesn't need to be long either.
- You can increase the difficulty by increasing the number of cards to three or four.

Further Notes:

- This is a great exercise for getting mentees used to a) impromptu speaking and b) speaking in front of others. As they get comfortable, consider adding new words or minimum time limits (perhaps 30-45 seconds).
- If you have a shy mentee, try playing just between the two of you to begin with before inviting other mentees and mentors to join.
- Bring some blank cards with you and let mentees add their own words to the set.
- Remember that public speaking is often scary, so maintain a safe, fun environment for everyone.