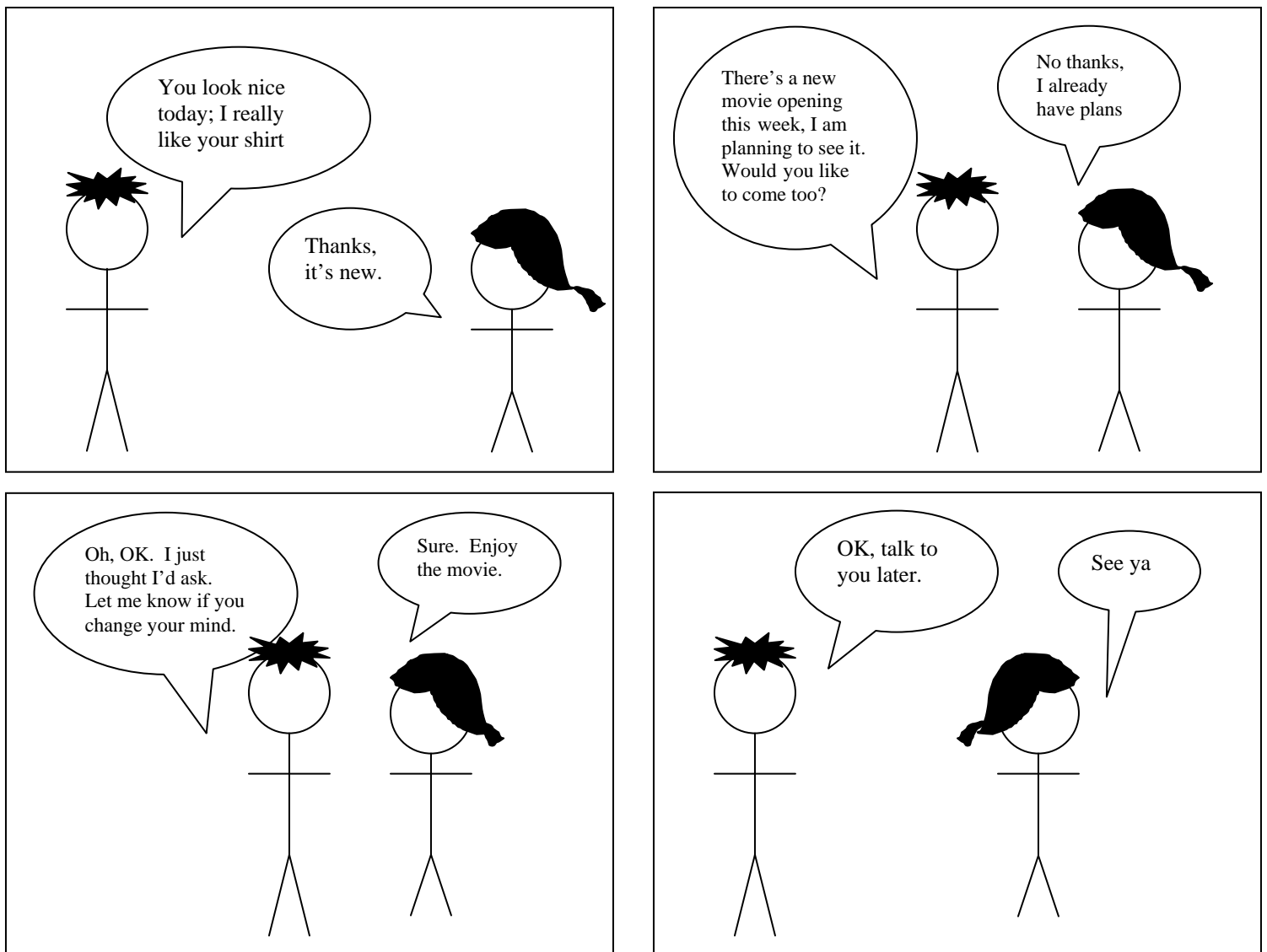


# Comic Strip Conversations: On Dating

A Comic Strip Conversation incorporates the use of simple drawings to visually outline a conversation between two or more people. These drawings serve to illustrate social conversations and interactions, and can be especially helpful for children who may struggle to comprehend the quick exchange of information. Comic Strip Conversations are commonly used for reporting past occurrences (and identifying solutions that can be implemented the next time the situation occurs), describing a present situation, or for helping children plan for future social interactions (Gray, 1994).

Below is an example of how comic strip conversations can be helpful in “working through” challenging social interactions such as asking an individual out on a first date.



***It is nice to compliment someone before you ask them out on a date. Sometimes people will say “No” to you when you ask them out. That’s ok, remain calm, and be polite.***

\*Disclaimer: These materials have been prepared for information purposes only.

# Comic Strip Conversations: On Dating

## **Benefits:**

- Provides insight into your child's perspective of a situation, as well as the perspective of other people.
- A helpful way to systematically identify what people might say and do, and emphasize what people may be thinking.
- Communicative device for children struggling with verbal expression.
- A useful tool for developing social skills (Gray, 1994).

## **Preparation:**

- Participants draw as they talk. Organize a selection of drawing and writing materials prior to beginning each conversation. Consider using: laminate marker boards, paper and pencil, chalkboards.

## **How To Teach** (Gray, 1994):

- The first time you introduce this activity; have your child describe a social activity that they enjoy, or a social interaction that went quite well in the past.
- Introduce your child to a few symbols at a time, starting with person (stick figure) and talking (speech bubble).
- Once your child is familiar with the basic symbols and how the comic strip works you can assist them in understanding and expressing ideas about a social situation that they may have had difficulty with.
- The initial stages take on an "interview" format, gradually working towards a conversation like format.

### Questions to Guide the Child's Drawing:

Where are you?  
Who else is here?  
What are you doing?  
What happened?  
What did others do?

What did you say?  
What did others say?  
What did you think when you said that?  
What did others think when they said that/did that?

- At the end of the Comic Strip Conversation your child is guided to come up with a plan for addressing the situation the next time it occurs.

## **References**

Gray, C. (1994). *Comic Strip Conversations*. Arlington, TX: Future Horizons.

Harris, S.L., & Weiss, M.J. (1998). *Right From the Start: Behavioral Intervention for Young Children with Autism*, Bethesda, MD: Woodbine House.

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