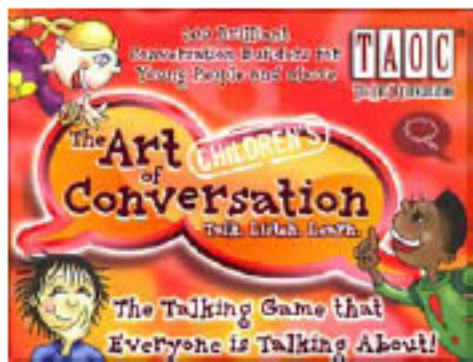


# books and things



## *The Art of Conversation*

Louise Howland & Keith Lamb

RRP \$19.99 Box

Published by Louise Howland & Keith Lamb

TAOC (The Art Of Conversation) was first produced in a successful version for adults. It is an innovative game (in the broadest sense of the word) which has been developed to stimulate conversation. This 'game' has no winners or losers but has the potential to build self esteem and to enable children to engage in conversation with each other and to learn about themselves and others in their social or class group.

Children who 'play the game' have to abide by the TAOC Manners. They cover 'talking manners', 'listening manners' and 'trust'. These are the tenets of good (and courteous) listening, group interaction and engaging in reflective thinking – skills which each child needs to understand and use, to communicate effectively as they travel life's path.

The rather sturdy boxed set contains 100 cards, with two conversation provoking questions on each card. Examples are:

- #17 What do you like to do outdoors,
- #18 When you were little what frightened you?
- #99 Tell us about your pet. Or, tell us about a pet you would like to have?
- #100 Do you believe that children should have pocket money, and if so, should it be earned?

These cards have a myriad of uses and would be very effective in encouraging group interaction, especially at the beginning of the year when children may be unsure of themselves and their surroundings. I think 'The Art of Conversation' is an extremely useful and valuable resource.

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