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CROCS

Conversation Starters & More

By Karen Kaplan

As a speech therapist I have always been interested in helping children learn to communicate their needs, wants, dislikes, frustrations, hopes, desires, feelings and much, much more. Today I realized that a pair of Crocs, on someone's feet, could be a great **conversation starter**.

Just, think about it. Crocs are very, very popular for children, teens, and adults, right now. Have you ever wandered through a Crocs store. I did. Crocs come in all **colors of the rainbow** and even in rainbow! You can find several shades of blue, red, green etc. etc. You can find Crocs in multi-colors. So, now, think about it, a person's favorite color may reside on his or her foot. You might then teach a person with autism or limited conversation skills, **to notice Crocs**. You might teach them that people choose Crocs or shoes, in their favorite colors. You might teach them colors while wondering in a Croc store. Just **point** different colors out to them. You might have **them point** to different colors you ask. You might develop their curiosity about people's favorite colors. They might practice asking their friends or family members, what their favorite color(s) are.

But, do not stop there. Crocs showcase a whole array of **charms**. Yes, individuals purchase these interesting charms and **fasten them** on top of the Crocs. In the shop I wandered through, I saw charms that represented every kind of sport, different food & beverage charms, cartoon character charms, different vehicle charms, storybook character charms, numbers, and letter charms, too.

So, while your individual picks out his or her favorite color, they can also choose favorite charms that represent their **interests**. You can point out to them, that when they put charms on their shoes and walk about, friends and family members will **notice** their likes and interests. You can teach them that the charms on peoples' Crocs **tell a story** about the person. Charms might teach them to ask questions about a person's interest. An entire **conversation** might be started, just by noticing Crocs, colors, and charms.

Purchasing Crocs teaches identifying **prices**. Purchasing Crocs teaches them to **ask questions** from the staff. Purchasing Crocs teaches them to learn that shoes come in all **different sizes**. Trying on Crocs builds **fine motor skills**.

Sometimes, classroom teachers have a **show and tell time**. You might check in with the teacher and find out if your son or daughter might bring his/her Crocs and talk about his **interests** through the charms and colors of their Crocs. They might then **ask classmates** about their interests and favorite colors.



