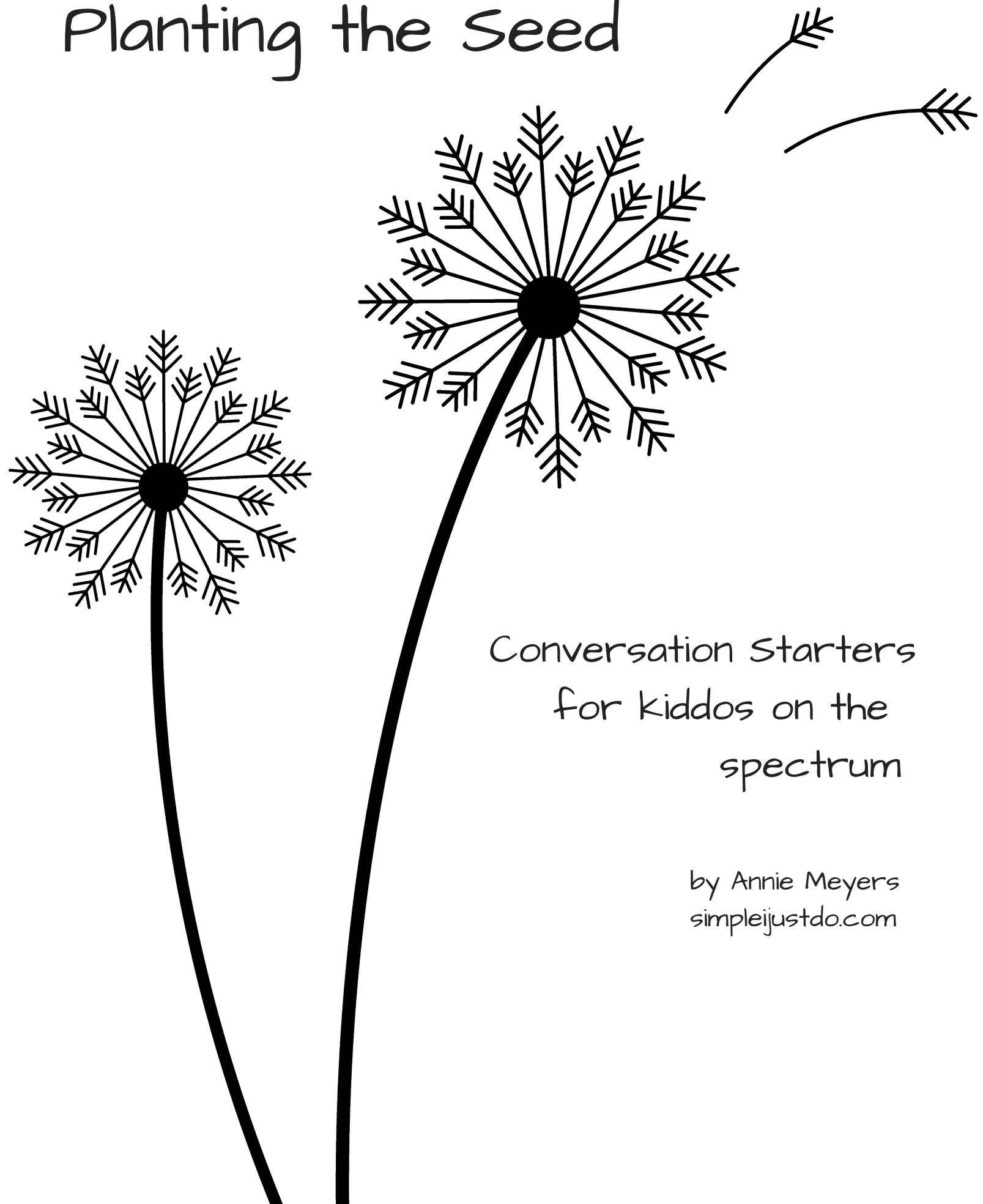


Planting the Seed



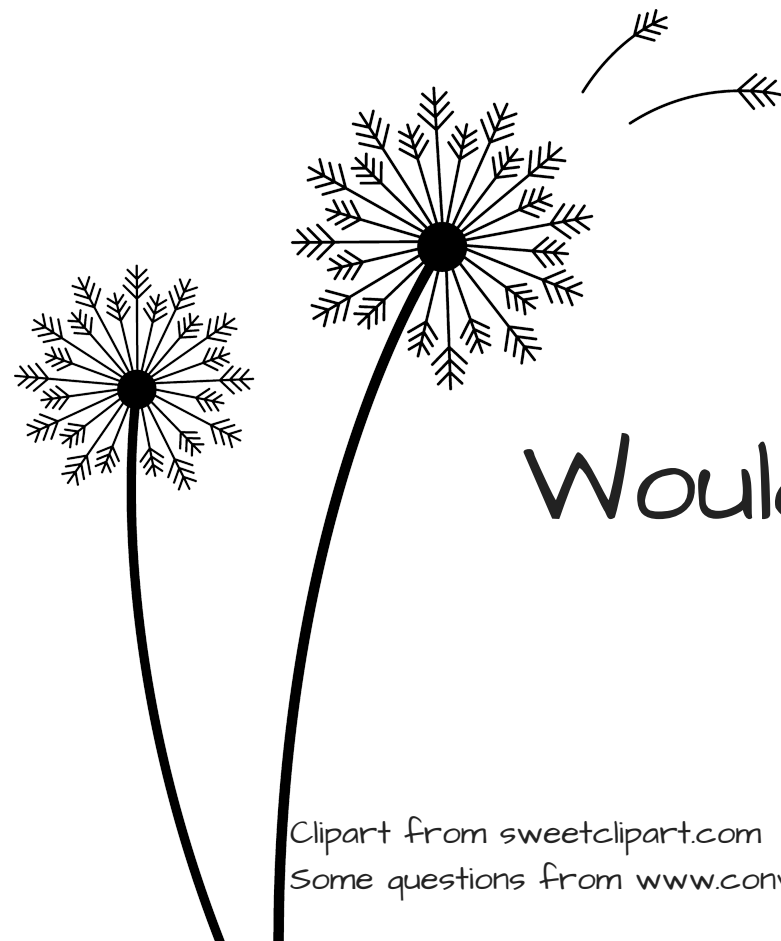
Conversation Starters
for kiddos on the
spectrum

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Plant the Seeds

Inspired by "The Key Jar" by Glennon Doyle Melton and Erin Waters at momastery.com, this activity is designed for kiddos on the spectrum, many of whom don't do so well with open-ended questions, but desperately need the conversation practice. It also serves as an excellent opportunity for you to connect with your child, and get a peek inside that brain. Consider this set of questions a starting point - I encourage you to come up with your own set, tailored to your kiddo and his or her special interests, which is always a sure way to engage them in conversation. Cut them out and laminate them, or paste them onto construction paper - there is no "right" way to do it.

When we first started this activity, The Boy kept asking why he had to choose, but after a few tries, we really started rolling.



Start by asking

Would you rather...?

Clipart from sweetclipart.com inspiration from momastery.com

Some questions from www.conversationstarters.com and thefamilydinnerproject.org

...eat pizza for every meal for the rest of your life, or have vegetables on the side for every meal for the rest of your life?

...clean your room every day for a year, or be in charge of the cat litter for a month?

...only have your left hand and have to learn to draw left-handed, or would you rather not have your sight and have to learn to sculpt?

...own a mean cat or a mean dog?

...have smelly feet or bad breath?

...eat a live bug or a dead worm?

...have the ability to travel back in time or forward in time?

...go to Disney World for two days or the state of California (minus Disneyland) for two weeks?

...give up your iPad until you turned 18, or give up TV for the rest of your life?

...buy your absolute favorite make and model of car with 100,000 miles on it, or buy a brand new Chevy Spark?

...own a mean cat or a friendly lizard?

...work for Apple, or Pixar?

...swim with dolphins, or ride an elephant?

...be the world's best at a video game, or design your own?

...spend
a day at
the beach
or at an
arcade
with \$50
in
quarters?

...spend the
day learning
how to
program
computers
or with
animals at
the animal
shelter?

...spend two
straight
weeks with
your best
friend, or
only see him
15 minutes
each day
for a month?

...go
barefoot
for a day,
or be able
to wear
your
pajamas
everywhere
for a day?

...have the
super
power of
invisibility or
the super
power of
omniscience
(knowing
everything)?

...always
have to say
everything
that you
are thinking,
or never
speak
again?

...have a \$5
GameStop
gift card,
or a \$20
gift card
to the
school
supply
store?

...have no
elective
class and no
homework,
or have
elective
classes and
homework
most nights?

...be
attractive
but not
very
smart, or
not very
attractive
but smart?

...have very
few
belongings
and be rich,
or have
many
belongings
and be
poor?

...visit the
Jelly Belly
Factory in
California,
or M&Ms
World in
Las Vegas?

...paint a
parking lot
on a hot
day, or
hold a
traffic
sign on a
frigid day?

...be hot
with no air
conditioning,
or cold
with no
heat?

...be able to
travel
through
space or
through
time?

...use a
crayon and
paper to
draw, or a
pencil and
napkin?

...have a lot
of cats and
no friends,
or a lot of
friends and
no cats?

...have a big monitor
attached to a
weaker computer,
or a smaller
monitor attached to
a powerful
computer?

...have the power to
change the endings
of your favorite
movies, or the
power to make
changes to your
favorite video games?

...own your
favorite car and
have to drive 5
miles under the
speed limit, or own
a junker and go as
fast as you want?

...be totally
covered in
hair head to
toe, or be
completely
bald?

...meet
Sonic the
Hedgehog
or Bill Nye
the Science
Guy?

...eat spaghetti
with
chocolate
sauce, or
pizza with
bananas on it?

...never have
to shower
again, or
never have to
brush your
teeth again?

...live somewhere
cold and get paid a
lot of money, or
live somewhere
warm and get paid
only a little money?

...be able to play
every instrument,
but not very well,
or be able to play
your instrument
extremely well?

...have no homework
for an entire
school year, or
have a little bit of
homework and ice
cream every
school night?