

# CONVERSATION STARTERS

## For Families

As a parent, I have high expectations when taking my family on vacation, campouts, or even just going out to dinner. The goal of doing these events is to bond with my kids. I want to catch up and know what is going on in their lives.

I envision fantastic conversations, laughing until our bellies hurt, and enjoying each other's company.

Sadly, 90% of the time, this does not happen organically. What is a mom to do? Initiate conversation with leading topics, of course!

A few years ago, I was camping with my family, sitting around the campfire. My oldest son was looking at his phone, and my younger two were starting to quarrel.

Knowing they were seconds away from dispersing, I needed to do something quickly. I exclaimed, "I am going to tell you about my most embarrassing moment when I was in the 5th grade."

This game promptly turned into each of us taking

a turn and sharing our embarrassing moments. We were all laughing and having such a great time that the next night I began with, "Here is our conversation starter... if you could be any animal for a day, what would it be?"

This is a great way to keep your kids engaged around the dinner table, road trips, and when you are sitting around a campfire. Honestly, I have used this tactic when driving my kids around, and they don't feel like talking.

If your question of, "how was school today?" is met with stony silence, you could try, "if you could trade places with someone for the day, who would it be?"

**"I AM GOING TO TELL YOU ABOUT MY MOST EMBARRASSING MOMENT WHEN I WAS IN THE 5TH GRADE."**

Sometimes I get a blank stare, so I just start talking about who I would want to be and why. Soon enough, my child can't wait to tell me their thoughts.

### HERE IS AN EXAMPLE OF HOW TO GET YOUR KIDS TALKING:

YOU: Have you ever had a dream that you could fly?

**KID: Silence**

YOU: I have, and it was awesome! It was so real that when I woke up, I was so disappointed that it was just a dream. I have also had other cool dreams like I could breathe underwater and run super fast.

**KID: Silence (crickets chirping)**

YOU: I wonder what this dream means? I have heard that dreams can be indicative of the situation we are currently in. For instance, if you have a dream your teeth are falling out, you feel like you cannot control something in your life. I have never had that dream, have you?

This was an actual conversation I had with my 10-year-old when I was desperate to get him talking. The funny thing is, he was totally listening, and I heard him talking to his sister a few days later about our one-sided conversation!



# CONVERSATION STARTERS

## General

### WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE SMELLS?

If you could time travel and go anywhere in the past for one week, where would you go?

### IF YOU COULD HAVE ONE SUPERPOWER, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Would you rather be Superman, Batman, or Captain America?

### WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE TIME OF THE YEAR?

If you could be any insect, what would you be?

### WHAT DO YOU THINK THE MOST DISGUSTING HABIT IS TO HAVE?



**If you were on a deserted island, what three people would you take?**

**What is your favorite comedy movie?**

**If you could go on any vacation in the world, where would it be and why?**

**What is your favorite number and why?**

**What is your favorite exercise?**

**If you could be a famous musician/singer, what kind of music would you sing? What would your style be like?**

**Who was your first best friend? Are you still friends with them? Why not?**

**What do you like to do with your friends?**

**If you could suddenly play any musical instrument in the world perfectly, what would you want to play?**

**What animal would you be?**

**What is the weirdest dream you ever had?**

**If you could meet one person, dead or alive, who would it be?**

What weird talents do you have?

What is your favorite gift that you have ever received?

What is your favorite book?

Who was the best teacher you ever had? The worst teacher?

If you could be the best at any sport, what sport would that be?

Favorite restaurant you like to eat?

# 20 GENERAL CONVERSATION STARTERS

1. IF YOU COULD DO ANY JOB IN THE WORLD, WHAT WOULD IT BE?
2. WOULD YOU RATHER LIVE ON THE EAST COAST OR THE WEST COAST?
3. WOULD YOU RATHER... *(PUT ANYTHING HERE)*. FOR EXAMPLE, WOULD YOU RATHER EAT DOG FOOD OR EAT A CRICKET?
4. WHAT WAS BEST VACATION YOU HAVE EVER BEEN ON?
5. IF YOU COULD HAVE ANY JOB YOU WANTED, AND YOU DIDN'T CARE ABOUT MONEY, WHAT WOULD YOU DO?
6. IF YOU HAD TO EAT ONE FOOD FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE, WHAT WOULD IT BE? *(MINE WOULD BE COMBINATION PIZZA BECAUSE IT HAS MOST OF THE FOOD GROUPS!)*
7. IF YOU WERE GUARANTEED NOT TO DIE OR GET HURT, WHAT EXTREME SPORT/ACTIVITY WOULD YOU TRY?
8. IF YOU WON 10 MILLION DOLLARS IN THE LOTTERY, WHAT WOULD YOU DO FIRST?
9. WHAT SONG DO YOU LIKE TO SING IN THE SHOWER?
10. HAVE YOU EVER LAUGHED SO HARD THAT WATER CAME OUT OF YOUR NOSE?
11. WHAT IS THE MOST EMBARRASSING THING YOU HAVE EVER DONE? *(SOMETIMES I CAN'T THINK OF MY OWN EMBARRASSING MOMENTS, BUT I CAN USUALLY REMEMBER EMBARRASSING THINGS THAT MY FRIENDS OR FAMILY MEMBERS HAVE DONE. CHIME IN AND GET YOUR KIDS LAUGHING WITH SOME OF THESE STORIES. NAMES OMITTED OF COURSE!)*
12. IF YOU COULD BE AN ANIMAL, WHAT ANIMAL WOULD YOU BE? WHY?
13. IF YOU WERE A FAMILY PET, WHAT WOULD YOUR NAME BE?
14. WHAT WOULD BE THE WORST ANIMAL TO BE?
15. WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE HALLOWEEN COSTUME SO FAR?
16. WHAT FOOD COULD YOU NEVER EAT AGAIN AND BE OK WITH?
17. WHAT FOOD WOULD YOU MISS THE MOST IF YOU COULD NEVER EAT IT AGAIN?
18. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE DESSERT?
19. OTHER THAN YOUR ROOM WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ROOM IN THE HOUSE TO HANG OUT IN?
20. WOULD YOU RATHER LIVE IN A BEACH HOUSE OR A MOUNTAIN LAKE HOUSE?

# CONVERSATION STARTERS

## For Older Kids

What is the worst date you have ever been on?

If you could date one celebrity, who would it be?

Would you rather go on a date with a boy/girl that was way taller than you or way shorter than you?

What is your dream car?

What college do you dream of attending?

What do you hate most about dating?

Where is the best place to take a first date?

Do you have an irrational fear?

If you could meet with anyone alive for one-hour, who would you meet with?

If you could meet anyone for one hour who is no longer living, who would that be?

## To Help Kids Say "NO"

Get your kids thinking about clever comebacks in uncomfortable situations.

If someone offers you alcohol or drugs:

"No thanks, I like my brain and my developing neurons."

"I can't. Thanks, but I inhaled a helium balloon yesterday, so I'm good."

Thanks, but no. I like my apple juice unfermented.

Make up your own funny and witty comments. It helps your kids think about NOT doing something BEFORE they are presented with it.

"Hey, I think that is my mom calling."

"Ummm, I can't really hear you over the sound of my conscience screaming, noooooo!"

# CONVERSATION STARTERS

For Education



## Three Clues Game:

Example: I am thinking of a living creature:

- 1- It is a mammal (so it breathes air and gives live birth)
- 2- They live in the ocean
- 3- They are very intelligent  
(answer: a dolphin or whale)

Example: I am thinking of something that is alive:

- 1- It provides oxygen for humans to breathe
- 2- It consumes carbon dioxide
- 3- It needs sun and soil to live  
(answer: trees)

**I AM A BIG FAN OF EDUCATING MY KIDS ABOUT ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING. HERE ARE SOME CONVERSATION STARTERS AND GAME IDEAS TO GET KIDS THINKING AND LEARNING:**

**If you could meet someone who is dead, who would it be and why?**

*I would like to meet Martin Luther King Jr because he fought tirelessly for what he believed in without resorting to violence.*

*I would love to meet Abigail Adams. She was the wife of John Adams (second president of the United States). She was a big advocate for girls attending school and for women's equal rights.*

**If you could live in another country (other than USA) for a year, where would it be?**

**If you could live in any time period, other than now, when would you live? Why?**





# CONVERSATION STARTERS

## To Open Up About School

**IF YOU COULD CHANGE THE SCHOOL MASCOT, WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE IT TO?**

If you could choose any other adult to be the principal of your school, who would you choose?

**IF YOU COULD PUT ONE VENDING MACHINE IN YOUR SCHOOL WITH ONLY 5 ITEMS, WHAT WOULD YOU CHOOSE TO PUT IN THE VENDING MACHINE?**

If you could only pick 5 other people to be in your class, who would you pick? Who would the teacher be?

**IF YOU WERE IN CHARGE OF THE SCHOOL, WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE?**

What book would you require all the kids in your school to read?

**WHAT ANIMAL/PET WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN YOUR CLASSROOM.**

If you could have a fast-food restaurant in your school, which one would you choose?

**IF YOU HAD TO DESIGN A SCHOOL UNIFORM, WHAT WOULD IT LOOK LIKE.**

If you had to study the same subject all day, every day for one week, what subject would you choose?

**IF YOU COULD CHOOSE A DISNEY CHARACTER TO BE YOUR TEACHER, WHO WOULD YOU CHOOSE?**

## To Open Up About Friends

If you could rename your friend, what would you name him?

What friend do you think would look the best with long/short hair?

During a zombie apocalypse, which of your friends would survive the longest?

Which one of your friends would survive the longest on a deserted island?

What qualities do you think you bring to your friend group?

What qualities do you think your friend “so and so” brings to the group?

If you could add anyone in the world to your friend group, who would you add. What qualities do you think they would bring?

Why do you think those qualities would benefit you or your friends?

Would you rather have a really smart friend or a really athletic friend? Why?