

CONVERSATION

STARTERS

Tips for using the Conversation Starters

Be comfortable with silence – allow time for the child/youth to think.

Let the child/youth finish their thought; don't interrupt.

Give "I don't know" answers more time (maybe the question was too broad, they need more time to think or they don't know).

Listen – don't jump to problem-solving.

Possible times to do these: meal time, in the car, before bed; make it a special and comfortable time together.

Ask for more information; don't assume you know what they mean.

Follow-up phrase suggestions

Can you tell me more?

Why?

What's that like for you?

How do/did you feel when . . . ?

What do you mean?

That sounds really hard/frustrating, etc.

How can I help?

What do you think you/we can do?

I'm trying to understand.

For more information, visit
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What is everyone talking about at school?

Would you rather live at the beach or in the mountains?

If you had to teach something, what would you teach?

Would you rather have a car that goes underwater or flies?

Who do you eat lunch with?

What's the best thing about being a teenager?

What do you think your life will look like 10 years from now?

Which teacher helps you the most?

Would you rather see a firework display or go to a concert?

If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life,
what would it be?

What is the hardest thing in life for you right now?

What was the best part of your day?

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Would you rather have the hiccups all day or sneeze all day?

Why do you think people use swear words?

If you could make three family rules, what would they be?

What is one thing that you would like to change in the world?

What do you think about social media?

If you won \$1,000, what would you do with it?

What's your most embarrassing moment?

What are some things you feel grateful for today?

What does "being in love" mean?

If you could plan a family vacation any place in the world,
where would you go?

Would you rather live without music or without movies?

What is your dream job?

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Would you like to have children one day?

Describe your perfect day.

What's the latest fashion trend, and what do you think about it?

At what age should a child be allowed to see an R-rated movie?

What are you looking forward to next year?

Who in our family do you think could go the longest without blinking?

What do you look for in a partner?

Would you rather live in a house with 100 porcupines or 10 skunks?

Is it ever OK to call someone names?

Who would you most like to meet?

Name one thing you couldn't live without.

Share one thing that you are good at.

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