

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
preventchildabusewi.org.



Children's
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STARTERS

If our family could have any animal as a pet, what would you like to have?

Would you rather have elephant ears or a dinosaur tail?

What makes you smile?

If you had wings, where would you fly?

Did you have a chance to be nice to someone today? If yes, what did you do?

Would you rather eat lettuce or carrots?

What should we do more of as a family?

Name something you are thankful for.

If you had a robot for one day, what would you ask it to do?

Would you rather have grass for hair or flowers for ears?

Who do you like to play with the most?

What makes you sad?

What is something you are good at?

What is the best thing about being a kid?

STARTERS

If your favorite stuffed animal could talk, what would they say?

Would you rather crawl or hop?

Who is the nicest person you know?

What is your favorite color?

Would you rather it be warm and raining or cold and snowing?

What is your favorite toy?

Is it ever OK to call someone names?

Would you rather jump into a pool of chocolate pudding or strawberry ice cream?

What would you like to be when you grow up?

What is your favorite dinosaur?

What holiday do you like best?

What's your funniest face?

What is one of your favorite things to do?

Would you rather have one large eye or three tiny eyes?

STARTERS

What is one of your favorite books to read?

What is the weather like outside today?

Who is your best friend?

What show do you like to watch over and over?

Would you rather take a trip or stay home?

If you could have a superpower, what would it be?

What is something nice you did for someone today?