

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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Do you think it's more important to be rich or kind?

Would you rather not be allowed to watch TV
or not be allowed to eat sweets for a year?

What is the nicest thing someone did for you today?

If you could pick one superpower, what would it be?

Would you rather have a time machine or a magic wand?

What is your favorite family tradition?

What is your favorite season?

If you could only take three things to a deserted island,
what would you take?

What makes you happy when you are sad?

If you wrote a book, what would it be about?

Is there a family rule you think is unfair?

What are you most proud of?

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If your friend always forgets to bring their lunch to school, should other kids always share their lunch?

What is the worst thing about being a kid?

Who is your best friend?

Would you rather have a pet monkey or a reindeer?

What's your favorite joke?

Would you rather be with a group or all alone?

Has anyone ever dared you to do something you knew you shouldn't do? What did you say?

What is one thing you would like to learn how to do?

What is your favorite chore?

What is your least favorite chore?

Which would be better: being invisible or being able to fly?

Would you rather eat a worm sandwich or a stinkbug burrito?

At what age would you like to live on your own?

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Would you rather live in a tree or live in a cave?

What's easier: math or English?

How much TV should kids your age be allowed to watch each week?

What was the best part of your day?

How do you think kids who get teased feel?

What is the hardest part about going to school?

Would you rather be five years younger or five years older?

What is your favorite TV show?

Would you rather have octopus arms or caterpillar legs? Why?

What's the best thing about being ____ years old?

Did you help someone today?

If you had to choose one of your senses (seeing, smelling, tasting, hearing) to lose, which one would you choose?

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