

Getting to Know Your Child

- What are the three most interesting things about you?
- Name five reasons you're glad to be alive.
- If you could have any super power, what would it be and why?
- What's your favorite song? Why?
- What do you want to be when you grow up? Why?
- What's your favorite movie? Why?
- Why do you think kids put rings in their eyebrows and noses and bellybuttons?
- How about tattoos?
- Do you think you would ever want to do that? Why or why not?
- If we could go anywhere you wanted on vacation, where would you choose? Why?
- If you could have a conversation with anyone in history, who would it be?
- What would you want to ask them?
- What is your earliest memory?
- What are you most proud of?
- If you could change one thing about your appearance, what would it be?
- Is there anything about you that inspires other people in any way?
- What is your idea of an ideal day?
- If you were invisible where would you go and what would you do?
- What is a quality you wish you could have more of?
- If you could ask anyone for help, who would it be and why?
- What scares you the most and why?
- What makes you feel better?
- What do you worry about the most?
- What is your biggest goal this year?

Your relationship with your child

- What is your favorite thing about our relationship?
- What is your least favorite thing about our relationship?
- Do you think you can tell me anything?
- If you got into really big trouble, how do you think I would respond?
- Is there something I can do better that I am not doing now?
- Do you feel like you could talk with me about anything at all?
- If we had a special day together what would you want to do?
- Do I ever embarrass you?

Family

- How do you think your friends' families compare to ours? Are they about as close? Closer? More distant? Why do you think that?
- Do you think your friends talk to their parents?
- What do you think makes a family close?
- On a scale of 1 to 10, how strict are the parents in this family? What is the ideal number?
- Is the discipline in our family fair?
- What's the best thing about our family?
- If you could change one thing about your parents, what would it be?
- What are the most important things your parents have taught you?
- What do you think are the most important qualities of a good parent?
- What do you think makes a happy family?
- Tell each person in the family why you're glad they're part of the family.
- How do you think our family is the same or different from other families?
- Do you want to have kids when you grow up? Why or why not?
- What kind of parent will you be?
- Do you think you will be close to your siblings when you grow up?
- How many of your ancestors can you name and what do you know about them?
- What is your favorite family tradition?
- What three words do you think best describe our family?

Values

- What traits do you most admire in other people?
- Do you think it's okay to lie about your age to get into an Amusement Park with a cheaper ticket? Is it ever ok to lie?
- Do you think your parents ever lie?
- What kinds of lies do your friends tell their parents?
- Does it matter if a person makes a moral or immoral choice, if no one ever knows?
- Is it ever ok to cheat, in academics, sports, business?
- Do adults automatically deserve respect? How do you earn respect?
- What could our family do that would make the world a better place?
- What do you think the biggest problem in the world is? How about in our country?
- How would you change the world if you could?
- What do you think the "take-away" message of this movie is? • Do you admire the hero? Why or why not?

School & Learning

- Who is or was your favorite teacher? Why?
- Do you think there is a difference between being smart and being wise?
- What are the best and worst things about school?
- What do you know how to do that you could teach someone else?
- How common do you think cheating is at your school?
- What would you do if all the other kids were planning to cheat on the final and you knew that doing so would lower your grade?
- What do you think makes the most difference in how kids do at school? Hard work, innate ability, parental supervision, peer attitudes, how good the school is?
- Do you think it makes sense to admit students to a college based only on academic achievement or should an attempt be made to achieve racial and ethnic diversity as well?
- Do you think kids from wealthier school districts have an unfair advantage?
- What do you think about home-schooling?

Emotions

- Do you know what EQ (emotional intelligence quotient) is? If someone has a high EQ, what are they like?
- How do you feel when someone is angry with you? How do you act?
- Are you a "cup is half full" or "cup is half empty" kind of person?
- What do you do to cheer yourself up when you feel down?
- Have I never not noticed when you're sad?
- What is the best way for me to help you when you feel grumpy?
- When do you like me to hug you? When does it embarrass you?
- What hurts your feelings? How do you act when your feelings are hurt?
- What are the different kinds of courage? How do you define bravery?

Drug and Alcohol use

- Why do you think it's illegal for kids under the age of 21 to drink alcohol? After all, many parents do it.
- Why are marijuana and other drugs illegal?
- What would you do if you were in a car and the driver had been drinking or smoking marijuana?
- What if the driver was a grown-up, like your friend's parent?
- What do you think happens in the brain when people smoke marijuana? Why shouldn't kids smoke it?
- Have you ever thought that I drank too much? Acted differently when I drank alcohol?
- When do you think kids are ready to try alcohol?
- Do you know any kids or adults who you think have alcohol or drug problems?
- When do you think kids are ready to try alcohol?
- Do you know any kids who have tried alcohol or drugs, what do you think of them?
- What do the kids at your school do at parties?
- Have you been to a party like that? Have you ever been offered a drink? A marijuana cigarette or other drugs?
- How did you handle it?
- What would you do if you were at a party and someone passed out from drinking alcohol?
- Would you be worried about becoming addicted to alcohol or drugs?
- Do you think coffee is a drug? When do you think it's ok for kids to start drinking coffee?

Friendship & Peers

- Who is your best friend and why?
- What traits do you look for in friends?
- Do you think you're good at making friends?
- Where do you consider yourself on the shy to outgoing continuum?
- Do you think there is a such thing as peer pressure? Do you ever feel peer pressure? Do you think some people are more susceptible to peer pressure than others? Why do you think that is?
- What do you think makes a person popular? Are wealthier kids more popular? Kids who mature faster?
- Are you popular? Why or why not? Would you like to be?

Love & Marriage

- At what age do you think people can fall in love? At what age should people marry?
- How do you think love is different in real life than it is in the movies?
- What would be most important to you in looking for a spouse?
- Do kids at your school actually “date”?
- Do you know anyone who’s gay? Does anyone treat them differently? What do you think about that?
- Why do you think people get divorced? How do you think it affects the kids?

Body Image and Gender Roles

- How do you think ordinary peoples’ bodies compare to the models and actors on TV? How does it make you feel to watch them?
- Do you think girls look better with or without makeup?
- Is there a difference between "attractive" and "hot"?
- What are the most important qualities you would want in a boyfriend or girlfriend?

- Do you think most girls are glad when they reach puberty? Why or why not? Do you think most guys are glad when they reach puberty? Why or why not?
- What's the hardest thing about being a girl?
- What's the hardest thing about being a boy?
- Do you know anyone with an eating disorder? Why do you think kids develop eating disorders? Why do you think there's such an emphasis on thin-ness in our society?
- Can you name three things that you really like about yourself that have nothing to do with what you look like?
- When do you feel the most proud of who you are?

Spirituality

- Do you believe in God? Why or why not? If so, how do you picture God?
- Do you ever talk to God?
- Is spirituality the same as religion or different?
- Has religion played a positive or negative role in history?
- Do you have good friends who practice religions that are different from ours? Acquaintances? How are you like them? How are you different?
- Do you think there is one best religion? Why or why not?
- What do you think happens after death?

- What do you think is the meaning of life? Why are we alive?
- How will you know if you've had a successful life?