



# Enjoy These Dinnertime Conversation Starters

What's something you couldn't do when you were younger that you can do now?

If you had superpowers, what would they be and how would you use them to help people?

What's one fun thing you hope to do in the next year?

Who is your favorite character from a book, movie, or TV show?

If you could be an animal, what would you want to be? Why?

If you could live anywhere in the world, where would you want to live? Why?

If you could have a character from a book, movie, or TV show as a best friend, who would it be? Why?

What are three things that you're good at doing that took a lot of hard work and practice?

What is the greatest song ever written and why?

Do you have a favorite piece of clothing? What makes it special?

What is your favorite season? What do you like about it?

If you were a season, which season would you be and why?

Tell a story about how you got your name.

What does it mean to be brave?

What do you love most about summer?

What is your favorite type of weather?

Who is the funniest person you know?

Do you think it's possible to change one's self? How have you changed over the years/decades?

"After being in Harry Potter, I believe a bit more in magic than I did before," said the actor who played Ron Weasley in the Harry Potter movies. Do you believe in magic? If yes, explain your answer.

Do you think it's possible to change the world? Why or why not?

What do you think are the ideal characteristics for a life partner or spouse?

How does someone act when they are "in love"? (You can use a real person or a book/movie character as an example).

Steven Spielberg is quoted as saying, "All of us every single year, we're a different person. I don't think we're the same person all our lives." Do you agree?





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Who is/was your favorite teacher? Why?

If you were principal of your school, would you change anything? What?

Would you rather go to your school, or Hogwarts. Why?

Albert Camus said, "In the depth of winter, I learned that there was in me an invincible summer." What do you think he meant? Can you connect this to your own life?

Are you a "summer" person? If not, what season do you think best represents you?

What is your favorite summer food to eat?

What was your favorite thing you did this summer? Why was it your favorite?

Why do we celebrate the 4th of July? What is your favorite part of the holiday?

What do you think about rules? Do you think they're important? What are some rules you have in your home or at school?

Do you think you have too much freedom, or not enough?

Do you feel free to be yourself?

If you could change one thing about your family or about school, what would it be?

In the book Green Eggs and Ham, Sam-I-am refuses to try green eggs and ham. Then he does and he likes them. Has something similar ever happened to you?

Do you have a favorite movie, book or song that deals with change? Why is this your favorite?

The poet Maya Angelou once said, "If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude." What do you think she meant by this? Have you ever had to do this?

Margaret Mead is quoted as saying "Never believe that a few caring people can't change the world. For, indeed, that's all who ever have." Can you give an example of this from your lifetime?

"As soon as you get over caring what people think, you can have a nice time," said actress Lara Flynn Boyle. Do you care what other people think? In what ways?

Name three springtime activities that make you happy.

What will you miss most about winter?

One of the Beatles' most famous songs is "All You Need is Love." Do you think that's true? What other necessities might you throw in there?

Do you have a favorite love story? Is it from a book, movie or real life? Talk about it.





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Who or what exemplifies the meaning of “love” to you?

Do you find it easy to say I love you, or hard? Are there times when it’s harder than others?

What personality traits did you get from each of your parents? (ie patient like dad, friendly like mom, etc.)

“I’m content to stand on tradition. I’m even more content to wipe my feet on it,” said author Aaron Allston. What do you think he means? Have you ever felt that way?

When is it especially important to say ‘thank you?’ Do you notice when people thank you, or forget to thank you?

What is your favorite thing in the world to do? Why? How would you feel if you couldn’t do it anymore?

Talk about two things for which you felt thankful or grateful for today.

Who is your favorite storybook character? What do you imagine he or she feels thankful for?

Actor Javier Bardem said, “I think we are living in selfish times...we live in the so-called ‘first world,’ and we may be first in a lot of things like technology, but we are behind in empathy.” Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Explain.

“Don’t judge a man until you have walked a mile in his shoes.” What does that phrase mean to you?

Choose your favorite book or movie character and explain how he or she feels. How does he or she show empathy?

What is your favorite thing to do outside?

Talk about a time when your adaptability or open-mindedness really helped you in a situation.

In general, do you think we as a society are more or less tolerant toward one another than we used to be? Why or why not?

What does ‘open-minded’ mean? Do you know someone who is open-minded?

“A person’s a person no matter how small...” writes Dr. Seuss in his classic book Horton Hears a Who. What do you think he means by that? (or if you own the book The Sneetches, read and discuss).

How do you think the way we demonstrate loyalty changes (or should change) as we get older?

When athletes change teams or people change jobs and go to work for a competitor, is that disloyal? Why or why not?

At this point in life, do you believe life is or isn’t fair?





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What has made you feel this way?

We use lots of words every day that aren't in the dictionary. What's your favorite made up or slang word?

What is the greatest song ever written?

What is the best compliment you've ever received?

What is the one thing you couldn't live without?

Can you name the 7 wonders of the world? Do you agree with them? What would YOU say were the 7 wonders of the world?

How would you describe yourself to someone who has never met you?

Where in the world do you feel the most comfortable?

What is your favorite childhood memory?

Do you have a favorite piece of clothing? What makes it so special?

What one word would you use to describe yourself?

Did anyone read anything today in the newspaper or online that was surprising, upsetting or interesting?

Can you think of a time when you were responsible for doing something and didn't do it? What happened? How did the other people involved feel and how did you feel?

What was your favorite new story from this year?

What school subject do you think helps you the most in everyday life?

What's the most fun summer trip you've ever taken?

Lots of people picnic on public beaches and in public parks. Why do we have public spaces?

What's something you love to do and haven't done in a while because you were too busy?

Have you ever missed a chance to do the right thing because you were rushing too fast? What was it?

Can you give an example of a time you saw a friend, family member or stranger being treated unfairly? What did you do? (If you can't think of a real example, what might you do in such a situation?)

Think of a time life didn't work out how you expected. How did you respond? Would you respond differently now?

What are 3 things that you're good at doing that took a lot of hard work and practice?





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What are some things you count on other people to do for you? What would happen if they stopped doing those things?

What was the most surprising thing that happened to you this year?

What was your favorite thing that you learned this year (either in school or outside of it)?

What subject are you taking that you wish you could do more of?

During what part of your day do you feel most anxious and rushed? How could we change that?

Where do you feel most relaxed?

What is your favorite piece of art?

What is your favorite snack food?

What is your favorite way to travel? (Bike, car, on foot, plane, train, etc)

How do you define fairness?

Do you think your name suits you?

What personality trait has gotten you into the most trouble?

If I asked your teacher what subject is your best, what would s/he say?

Tell a funny joke.

What is the most beautiful place you've ever seen?

If you could pack your own lunch every day, what would you pack?

If you did the grocery shopping, what would you buy?

If you could grow a mustache, would you do it? What would it look like?

How old do kids need to be before you think it's ok to have a Facebook account? Why?

What is your favorite animal?

How do you feel about bugs?

Would you rather be very tall or very short?

What is your favorite game to play with the family?

Do you think it's more fun to be a parent or a child?

What special talent(s) do you have?

What does your teacher do really well?





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What is your favorite food? Your least favorite?

What is your favorite season? What do you like about it?

How do you feel about sharing? Do you like to share?  
Why or why not?

How do daddy or mommy show fairness at home? Or  
how does your teacher show fairness at school?

In the book *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No  
Good, Very Bad Day*, Alexander has a bad day. Have you  
ever had a bad day? Did it get better? How?

What is one thing you enjoy being responsible for?

What are 3 things you have to do every day, whether  
you like it or not?

What has been your favorite part of school this year?

What is your favorite part of the school day?

When you are really upset, what helps calm you down?

What is your favorite place in the world to sit quietly?

What is the craziest thing you've ever eaten?

What do you do each day to recharge after a long day?  
Do you typically get to do this every day? Why or why  
not?

Tell us a story about something that happened today at  
school and another story that you made up about  
something that happened. We'll try to guess which is  
which.

What is one thing that happened today that made you  
feel: happy, silly, friendly, smart? (Perhaps try a  
different adjective each day.)

Which school subject do you think will be most helpful  
to you in the future?

What is the hardest thing about being # years old?  
What is the best thing about being # years old?

Would you rather be good looking, smart, or athletic?

Would you rather be rich or famous?

What is your favorite form of exercise?

What do you do when you are afraid?

What is your favorite type of weather?

What's your favorite thing to do outside?

A coach is fired after a video of him berating the  
players goes public. Unfortunately, there are lots of  
examples in the media of politicians, sports figures,  
businessmen and others acting unfairly. Can you think  
of someone you admired who acted unfairly? What did  
they do? How did this change your opinion of them?

