

Five Tips to Get Your Teenager Talking

from Jonathan McKee at *TheSource4Parents.com*

We've all felt it. Our kids used to talk with us, but then something happened. They hit puberty. All of a sudden. . . *conversation became a chore!*

So what are some ways moms and dads can open up the doors to meaningful conversation with our kids? Here are five tips from my book, *Get Your Teenager Talking*, a book with over 1,000 questions that actually "get your teenager talking."

1. **Don't ask yes or no questions.** Ask questions that require more than a one-word response.
2. **Don't ask dull questions.** Don't ask, "How was your day?" They're tired of that. Think of imaginative questions that will engage your teen.
3. **Think ahead.** Conversation with your teen takes planning! It's okay to cheat and use resources that provide creative questions.
4. **Don't be afraid to use controversy.** Bring up a debatable subject and ask your kids' opinions. Many schools are blocking social media on campus. Why? Is this fair? What would you do if you were in charge?
5. **Use your eyes and ears before your mouth.** Listen to your teen. Enter their world.

Try it. At dinner tonight ask your kids, *"If you could text anyone in the world right now and you knew they'd actually reply, who would you text?"*

Follow up with a few more questions:

- *"What would you text them?"*
- *"What would you hope they'd reply?"*
- *"If you could only text one person for a year—someone you already text, who would it be and why?"*

Open up the doors to meaningful conversation in your home!

