

1. FRIENDSHIP

- What is a friendship "deal-breaker?" Something worth ending a friendship over.
- What has someone done that made you realize you were definitely friends?
- How do you show a friend that they matter to you?

2. SUMMER PLANS

- When school starts again in the fall, what are three words you'd like to be able to use to describe this summer?
- What is one experience you'd love to have this summer that doesn't cost money?
- What would you like to learn or get better at this summer?

3. TECHNOLOGY USE

- What's the best thing about technology?
- What worries you about (someone 2 years younger than your child, or just "a # year old kid") getting online?
- What are the pros and cons of being an adult with their own cell phone?

MARATHON KIDS



CONVERSATION STARTERS

PICK ONE TOPIC PER MILE

4. BODY IMAGE

- What are teenaged (same gender child) "supposed" to look like? Who decides?
- What would you tell a friend that thought they were fat?
- (Using a billboard, advertisement or magazine ad with anyone's picture) What do you think they might've photoshopped?

5. HEALTH

- What does being healthy mean to you?
- How do you already take care of your body?
- What do adults have to do to be healthy that's different than kids?

6. FAMILY COMMUNICATION

- If someone has to tell you to fix something or that you messed up, what's the best way for them to tell you?
- What's a way you speak to other people sometimes, and then wish you hadn't?
- What's the praise that makes you feel best?

7. BE IN CHARGE

- If you were the parent in our family... what rules would you change?
- ...what rules would you keep?
- ...how would you earn enough money to support us?

8. MAKE YOU LAUGH

- Best knock knock joke you know! (Idea - Knock knock. Who's there? Interrupting cow. Interrupting- MOO!!)
- Best anti-joke? (Here's one - what's red and bad for your teeth? A brick.)
- Best what-do-you-call joke? (Q: What do you call an alligator in a vest? A: An Investigator)

9. CAREERS TO AVOID

- What job is too gross for you?
- What job is too silly?
- What job would you be TERRIBLE at?

10. PARENTS AS KIDS

- What would you guess I got in trouble for when I was your age?
- What do you think was my favorite subject in your grade?
- What do you think I wanted to be my job as a grown up when I was your age?

11. DREAM VACATION

- If we could take a two week vacation ANYWHERE where would you want us to go?
- Name one thing for each person in the family that they would love to do there.
- What are some of the things we would eat while we were there?

12. SUPERHERO

- If you could have three superpowers, what would they be?
- Who would be the villain you fought, and what do they do that isn't ok with you?
- What would your superhero name be?

13. GROWN UP SECRET CODE

- How can you tell if an adult thinks you're a good kid?
- What are some differences between "kid language" and "grown up language"?
- How do you get a grown up to listen to you when you have a problem or a question?

14. HELPING A FRIEND

- What's the difference between a surprise and a secret?
- What kinds of secrets wouldn't you want to keep for a friend?
- What are problems that kids sometimes face that they really need a grownup to help with?

15. FAMILY TRADITIONS

- Can you think of some examples of family traditions and why people do them?
- What do we do in our family that you think make us more connected or happier?
- What's one tradition you think isn't working, or one you'd like to add?



16. MOOD CHANGES

- Have you ever been in a mood that surprised or upset you?
- What do you do that changes your own mood?
- What can someone else do that usually makes your mood improve?

17. CRAZY WORDS

- Have you ever been called something you really didn't like?
- What are some of your favorite words in the universe?
- What words have you used that someone else didn't like and you were surprised by that?



18. WHICH WOULD YOU PICK

- Would you pick the ability to travel - just by deciding to - through space or through time?
- Would you pick a whole school year without homework or without tests?
- Would you pick becoming a YouTube star or discovering something amazing?

19. WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE

- What advice would you give... the parents of a first grader who wanted to get a smartphone?
- ...an athlete or a celebrity that made a mistake and got in trouble?
- ...someone in your class who thought the teacher didn't like them?

20. IF YOU COULD SPEND ONE DAY...

- If you could spend one entire day as an animal, which one would you pick?
- If you could spend the day as you but a totally different age, how old would you be?
- If you could become the character in one book or movie for a day, who??

21. COMPETITION

- Would you rather try to beat your own record at something or everyone else's?
- How can competing make you worse at something?
- What made-up competition would you DEFINITELY win?

22. STUFF YOU LOVE

- If you had to watch the same movie every month, which one would you pick?
- You can take one person your age with you to deserted island for a week. Who would you take?
- If you had "walk on music" every time you entered a room, what song would play?



23. ROAD TRIPS

- What's the farthest place you think we could get to on a family road trip with no one complaining?
- What are three things we HAVE to bring on a road trip if we want to have fun?
- If we could bring one extra person with us to make road trips easier, who in the world should we bring?

24. PEER PRESSURE

- Have you ever seen a kid your age behave better because everybody else was?
- What's something you would never do even if everyone you knew said it was great?
- What advice would you give to someone who wasn't sure if they should pick the after school activity they were most excited about or the one most of their friends were doing?

25. RUN YOUR OWN SCHOOL

- If you ran a school for grownups, what would be some of the classes you'd offer to teach them things you think they need to learn?
- If a school could have only three rules, what should they be?
- What's the point of school?

26. GOOD AND BAD

- What could be bad about winning the lottery?
- What could be good about having all of your stuff disappear all of a sudden?
- What's good and what's bad about being invisible?