

# Magical Chats™

CREATING MEANINGFUL  
CONNECTIONS THROUGH DIALOGUE



SET ASIDE DISTRACTIONS



ASK GOOD QUESTIONS



LISTEN CAREFULLY



BE CURIOUS & ASK  
FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS

KEEP reading for questions & techniques  
to inspire your Magical Chats.

# Magical Questions

OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS ENCOURAGE CHILDREN TO MOVE BEYOND "YES" OR "NO" ANSWERS AND SHARE THEIR THOUGHTS AND IDEAS.

1. WHAT WAS **THE BEST PART** OF YOUR DAY?
2. WHAT WAS THE **MOST AMAZING THING** YOU LEARNED TODAY?
3. WHAT **MADE YOU SMILE** OR LAUGH TODAY?
4. WHAT WAS THE MOST **DIFFICULT THING** YOU DID TODAY?
5. **WHAT RULE** WAS HARD TO FOLLOW TODAY?
6. WHAT WAS **THE NICEST THING** YOU DID FOR SOMEONE TODAY?





7. IF YOU COULD HAVE ANY **SUPER POWER**, WHAT WOULD IT BE? WHY?

8. IF YOU COULD HAVE ANY **ANIMAL AS A PET**, WHAT WOULD YOU WANT?

9. IF WE COULD GO **ANYWHERE** IN THE WORLD RIGHT NOW, WHERE WOULD YOU WANT TO GO? HOW WOULD WE GET THERE?

10. WHAT IS YOUR **FAVORITE THING TO DO**? WHERE IS YOUR FAVORITE PLACE TO BE?

11. IF YOU COULD CHANGE ONE THING ABOUT **SCHOOL/YOUR FRIENDS/OUR FAMILY/OUR HOME**, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

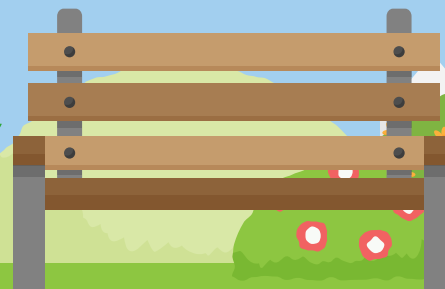
12. **WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF ... ?** (HYPOTHETICAL SITUATIONS ARE A GOOD WAY TO LEAD INTO CRITICAL CONVERSATIONS ABOUT SAFETY, BULLYING, VALUES, ETC.)

13. WHAT MAKES YOU **HAPPY**?\*

14. WHAT MAKES YOU **SAD**?\*

15. WHAT ARE YOU REALLY **GOOD AT**?\*

\* To help your child build empathy, rephrase these questions so your child considers your perspective. Example: Ask your child, "What do you think makes me happy?" Encourage your child to ask you questions.





# Follow up With Curiosity

SHOWING CURIOSITY AND INTEREST ALLOWS YOU TO UNCOVER MORE OF YOUR CHILD'S EMOTIONS AND PERSPECTIVE.

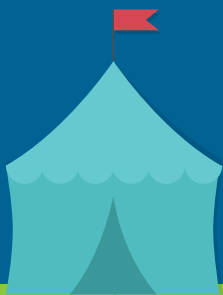
1. REALLY? *TELL ME MORE.*

2. WHAT HAPPENED? WHAT DID X SAY? *WHAT DID YOU DO?*

3. *HOW DID IT MAKE YOU FEEL?* HOW DO YOU THINK IT MADE X FEEL?

4. WHAT COULD YOU DO DIFFERENTLY *NEXT TIME?*


5. *WHAT COULD YOU DO TO HELP?*



# Make the Impossible Possible

WHEN YOUR CHILD SAYS SOMETHING OUTLANDISH OR IMPOSSIBLE, IT'S EASY TO DISMISS THE IDEA OR EMOTION UNINTENTIONALLY. INSTEAD, USE THIS AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE A QUICK MAGICAL CHAT.


## TYPICAL



YOU'RE A BIG BOY.  
YOU DON'T NEED  
PACIFIERS ANYMORE

I WANT A  
PACIFIER!

## MAGICAL

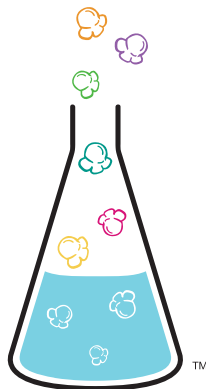


I SEE YOU WANT TO  
PRETEND TO BE A BABY  
AGAIN. LET'S PRETEND  
TOGETHER AND YOU CAN  
BE MY ITSY, BITSY BABY!

I WANT A  
PACIFIER!

To turn the interaction into a Magical Chat, the mom demonstrates understanding. She engages in the fantasy and acknowledges her son's longing to receive the same attention as the baby. While playing, she might ask what her son liked about being a baby and what he likes about being a big boy. Together, they'd be able to discover a way to make him feel that he gets special attention in a way the baby can't. Wherever possible, infuse play and silliness into difficult conversations to help your child become more receptive to other possibilities.

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