



25 Ways to Connect with Your Kids

1. Fathers, date your daughters. Take your daughter out to dinner; dress up; treat her like a lady; model to her how she should be treated by a boy on a date.
2. Moms, pamper your sons. Find out what their favorite dinner is and make it for them. No special occasion; just do it out of love.
3. Listen to your kids. God gave us two ears and only one mouth so that we would listen twice as much as we talk. Ask your children about things that are important to them, and then listen.
4. Don't give unsolicited advice. Kids want you to understand their problems, not necessarily have you tell them how to fix them.
5. Take a walk with your child. No agenda; just spend time together doing something. Conversation will naturally arise from spending time together.
6. Get involved in your child's school. Volunteer in the classroom, the lunchroom, or the nurse's office. When your child looks up from her desk and sees you in the classroom filing papers, I can guarantee a smile.
7. Listen to your child's favorite music and try to appreciate it. Ask your child what his favorite song is and why. Grin and bear it.
8. Rent an old movie like "It's a Wonderful Life," pop some popcorn, and watch it together. Talk about the movie.
9. Take your son or daughter on an overnight trip, just the two of you. There may be some uncomfortable silence, but that's OK. It takes a while to reconnect.
10. Ask your child who her best friend is, and why. Find out what your child looks for in a friend, and ask her how she chooses her friends.
11. Take your son or daughter to church. Sit next to them in the service; let them hear you pray and watch you worship.
12. Keep a prayer journal for your kids. Ask your kids for prayer requests daily; journal their requests; pray for them; and then journal the answers. Share your prayer journal with your kids every three months or so. They will know you love them, and will see the working of God in their lives.
13. Buy your child a CD or DVD that you think they might like.

14. Become a student of your student. Encourage their natural strengths; show grace toward their weaknesses.
15. Every now and then, take a day off from work to spend with your kids, just because.
16. Dad, love your wife. Treat her special; love her publicly, in front of your kids. Moms, respect your husband; honor him; respect him publicly, in front of your kids.
17. Set limits for your kids. Kids should not be given additional privileges just because of age; they should earn additional privileges by being responsible. That's how life works.
18. Put your kids on a budget, and teach them how to manage their own money.
19. Find a poem that reminds you of your child, or that your child would like; have it written in calligraphy, frame it, and give it to your child as a love gift.
20. Insist that the whole family eat dinner together at least five nights a week. If your schedule makes this impossible, change your schedule.
21. Remind your children of their family heritage; tell them that they will be responsible for carrying your family's heritage into the future.
22. Find a Bible verse that's particularly meaningful to you, share it with your son or daughter, and explain what it means to you. Ask your son or daughter for their favorite verse.
23. When you blow it with your kids, ask for their forgiveness. When they ask for your forgiveness, give it; don't give a lecture.
24. Try to remember what it was like when you were a kid; the feelings of immortality and of limitless possibilities, mixed with a great deal of insecurity. Affirm your child not only for who she is, but who she will become.
25. Finally, don't exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. Reconnect with your kids. Do it now.