GLOBAL

BOYHOOD

INITIATIVE

CONVERSATION STARTERS FOR KIDS

@BoyhoodInitiative
The Global Boyhood Initiative is about guiding boys to:

- Share emotions in healthy ways
- Accept & connect with others
- Stand up & speak out against bullying & inequality
- Break free from stereotypes
HOW TO USE THIS DECK

Getting kids to open up to us isn’t always easy. We hope these Conversation Starters help.

We encourage you to bring an open mind to using the questions in this deck.

These cards can be used together with other Global Boyhood Campaign tools and content, or they can be used on their own.

Be sure to tell us @BoyhoodInitiative or #Braverylys on Instagram how things went! And if you want to play live, search the @BoyhoodInitiative filter in Stories or Reels.

Just know: It’s totally okay if there are awkward moments, or long stretches of silence.
The Global Boyhood Initiative is a project of Promundo and the Kering Foundation, in partnership with Plan International. We equip adults with tools and resources to raise, teach and coach boys to be their wonderful, complex, healthy emotional selves. Find out more and get involved at BoyhoodInitiative.org
CONVERSATION STARTERS FOR 10 TO 13-YEAR-OLDS
PARENT TIPS

Your 10–13 year old is learning how to develop complex relationships, create multiple solutions, and are experiencing more self-consciousness, moodiness/ distance, and developing their individuality. With these questions, you can start conversations aiming to help your child to express and cope with sadness or depression, peer pressure, and to differentiate between healthy and unhealthy relationship dynamics.
HOW TO KEEP KIDS TALKING

• Put your phone away, so you can give your full attention

• Create space for kids to express their emotions by reaffirming the conversation is confidential

• Take them seriously: how them you believe and value what they are sharing

• Show that you’re listening (nod, repeat what you hear, ask clarifying questions)

• Be aware of your actions and facial expressions

• Stay open-minded; don’t assume you know how they will respond

• Ask follow-up questions:
  “Tell me more about that.”
  “What did you do when that happened?”

• Allow uncomfortable silences; try counting to 10 before breaking the silence

• Encourage them to make connections to broader social justice issues and to the world around them
SHARE EMOTIONS IN HEALTHY WAYS
Is there someone you talk to about how you’re feeling?

If so, who is that person?

What makes you comfortable with them?

If not, can you tell me more about that?

SHARE EMOTIONS IN HEALTHY WAYS
What would you do if you were mad at a friend or family member?

How could you share your feelings and work towards a solution?

SHARE EMOTIONS IN HEALTHY WAYS
What do you think it means to be depressed? Anxious?

What could someone do if they are feeling depressed? Anxious?

What could you do if you feel depressed? Anxious?

SHARE EMOTIONS IN HEALTHY WAYS
ACCEPT AND CONNECT WITH OTHERS
Do you feel comfortable talking to boys? To girls?

Can you tell me more about that?
How do you handle stress?
Challenges?

How do your friends handle stress?
Challenges?

What are the similarities/differences?
Can you tell me more about that?

ACCEPT & CONNECT WITH OTHERS
Are most of your friends similar to you or different from you?

What do you appreciate about your friends’ differences?

ACCEPT & CONNECT WITH OTHERS
STAND UP & SPEAK OUT AGAINST BULLYING & INEQUALITY
How does it feel when someone makes fun of you?

What do you do if you see someone being bullied online (social media/video games) or in-person?

What could you do to help them?

STAND UP & SPEAK OUT AGAINST BULLYING & INEQUALITY
Tell me about a time when you (or someone you know) were treated differently because of your identity (race, gender, sexual orientation, etc)?

Who is hurt by social injustices?

What can you do about it (at home, at school, in your community)?

STAND UP & SPEAK OUT AGAINST BULLYING & INEQUALITY
Who do you know that’s very different from you?

What makes them different?

What do you appreciate about them?

How can you learn more about other people who are different from you?

STAND UP & SPEAK OUT AGAINST BULLYING & INEQUALITY
BREAK FREE FROM STEREOTYPES
Do you think there’s a certain way people expect you to look or act because of your gender? Why?
Are there ways that you see boys and girls being treated differently by adults?

How do you feel about that?
Are there things you would do if you didn’t think people would judge you or make fun of you?

What would they be and why?