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 #BraveryIs 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 4 TO 6-YEAR-OLDS
PARENT TIPS

Your 4-6 year old is learning to play and interact with others, manage conflict, and understand emotions. Through these questions, you can start conversations aiming to help your child to identify their emotions and the emotions of others, learn how to process difficult feelings, and better connect with friends and family.
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
What face do you make when you're sad/happy?

What makes you feel sad/happy?

SHARE EMOTIONS IN HEALTHY WAYS
When does your heart feel brave? Shy? Scared? Proud?
What makes you feel mad?
Scared?

What do you do when you’re mad? Scared?

How do you calm down?

SHARE EMOTIONS IN HEALTHY WAYS
ACCEPT AND CONNECT WITH OTHERS
Who is your best friend?

What’s your favorite thing about them?

ACCEPT & CONNECT WITH OTHERS
Who gives you the best hugs?

Who do you like to give big hugs?

ACCEPT & CONNECT WITH OTHERS
Who do you go to when you need help?

How do you help your friends/siblings?
STAND UP & SPEAK OUT AGAINST BULLYING & INEQUALITY
How do you show that you’re kind?

Can you tell me more about that?
What makes someone brave?

Tell me about a time you were brave.
What can you do if someone was being mean to your friend/sibling?
BREAK FREE FROM STEREOTYPES
Can boys and girls like the same colors?

Tell me more.
What makes people cry?

Is it always okay to cry?

Can you tell me more about that?
Who is someone who is very kind? Very brave?

What makes them that way?

Can everyone be kind? Brave?

BREAK FREE FROM STEREOTYPES