

# HAVING THE TALKS: RELATIONSHIPS

## Different Ways To Start the Conversation

"Hey, I wanted to talk to you about something. I noticed that you and [insert friend name] were watching [insert name of show or movie] the other day. What did you think about that movie?"

"Remember how we saw those two people fighting at the [grocery store/BBQ/game] the other day? That really freaked me out but maybe I'm old school. How do kids your age handle it when two people don't agree or get upset?"

"Some parents were talking about how their kids can be best friends one day and then seem to hate each other the next and it made me realize that friendships have really changed since I was growing up, especially with technology. How do friends communicate these days about stuff?"

"I was reading this advice column in the paper and they were giving advice to a teen about the ideal qualities of a friend and then boyfriend or girlfriend. It got me thinking that teens, like you, would be even better to give that kind of advice. What would you say are the best qualities of a friend or romantic partner if a younger kid was asking you?"

"This morning I read your little sister that book you used to love—about two kids who started out assuming they would be enemies but ended up being best friends. What do you think are the kinds of things that make friendships like those stick?"

"Kids can sometimes be really mean, even to someone they used to be friends with. How do you think each person would feel in a situation where one friend was 'breaking up' with the other?"

"The character in that book [reference something they are reading] seems to really be struggling with that friend. How do you think you would react in that situation?"

