



DINNER GAMES

CHARADES

One person is the actor and the others are guessers. The actor has to act out a word or phrase without speaking. You can let each actor think of their own words, or have a list of ideas ready.

When they're ready, the actor holds up their fingers to show how many words are in the correct answer. Then they act out the word or phrase they've chosen. The first person to guess correctly gets to act next!

To make your round of Charades more fun, you can agree on a category first, like "book titles," "movies" or "animals." Or you can get really creative and play Charades about family memories, with each person acting out a memorable moment!





DINNER GAMES

TOP FOUR

Before the meal starts, everyone gets four slips of paper. Each person writes a phrase or item on each slip (for example, “Clean Sheets,” “Snakes,” “The Grateful Dead,”).

The slips go into a jar on the table. At dinner, one person (the “leader”) starts by drawing four slips of paper from the jar and reads them aloud. Then the leader privately puts the slips in order of preference, from most favorite to least. At the same time, the other guests write down the order in which they think the leader would place things. The leader reads their list, and whoever guesses the leader’s list order gets a point.



DINNER GAMES

Two Truths and a Tall Tale

Ask everyone at the table to say three things about themselves: Two true things, and one thing that's made up.

The rest of the table will guess which is the tall tale!

Sometimes this game is easier if everyone gets a chance to write down their three things before sharing.





DINNER GAMES

Where in the World?

Imagine everyone at the table has the gift of teleportation, but it only lasts for 24 hours. Go around the table and answer the following questions:

Where in the world would you go?

Would you bring anyone with you?

How long would you stay?

What would you do there?



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Salad Bowl Game

Before dinner each family member writes down the names of five people they admire, on five separate pieces of paper. Mix up all the pieces of paper in a bowl and place this bowl on the table during dinner. Each family member takes a turn drawing a name from the bowl and describes this person to the rest of the family.

The only rule is that the “describer” can not say the person’s name or any part of the name. Once the person is identified, try to guess who put this name in the bowl, and then talk about why the person plucked from the salad bowl is admirable.





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The Hat Game

Before dinner, have each guest write their answers to one or more of the following questions on slips of paper and place them in a hat. At dinnertime, the host reads the answers aloud, and everyone tries to guess which guest gave which answers!

- What is a book that transformed your life?
- What character in a children's book did you most identify with as a child?
- What was your favorite toy as a child?
- What do you feel most grateful for?
- What do you love most about being a part of this (or your) family?
- What animal would you most like to be?





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Guess The Title

Each person lists a bunch of items, tangible or abstract and the rest of the family has to guess what the title of the list might be.

For example: Sleeping late, sand in my sheets, no TV, outdoor shower, losing my sunglasses, riding waves. The title is “My Beach Vacation.”





DINNER GAMES

Guess Who?

Everyone thinks of a person, place or thing that needs help. On a piece of paper, write down 5 ways to help that person, place or thing.

Have the rest of the table guess what person, place or thing you are helping by sharing just those 5 ways of helping on your list!



DINNER GAMES

Guess That Emotion

Have one person leave the table for a minute. Once she leaves, the rest of the family decides on an emotion. When the missing family member returns to the table, the rest of the family eats and acts with that feeling in mind. For example, if the emotion is “worry,” someone might say “I have so much homework tonight I’m never going to get to sleep.”

You can make it a bit more challenging for older kids by allowing only body language and facial expression to convey emotion, or even just facial expression alone.

