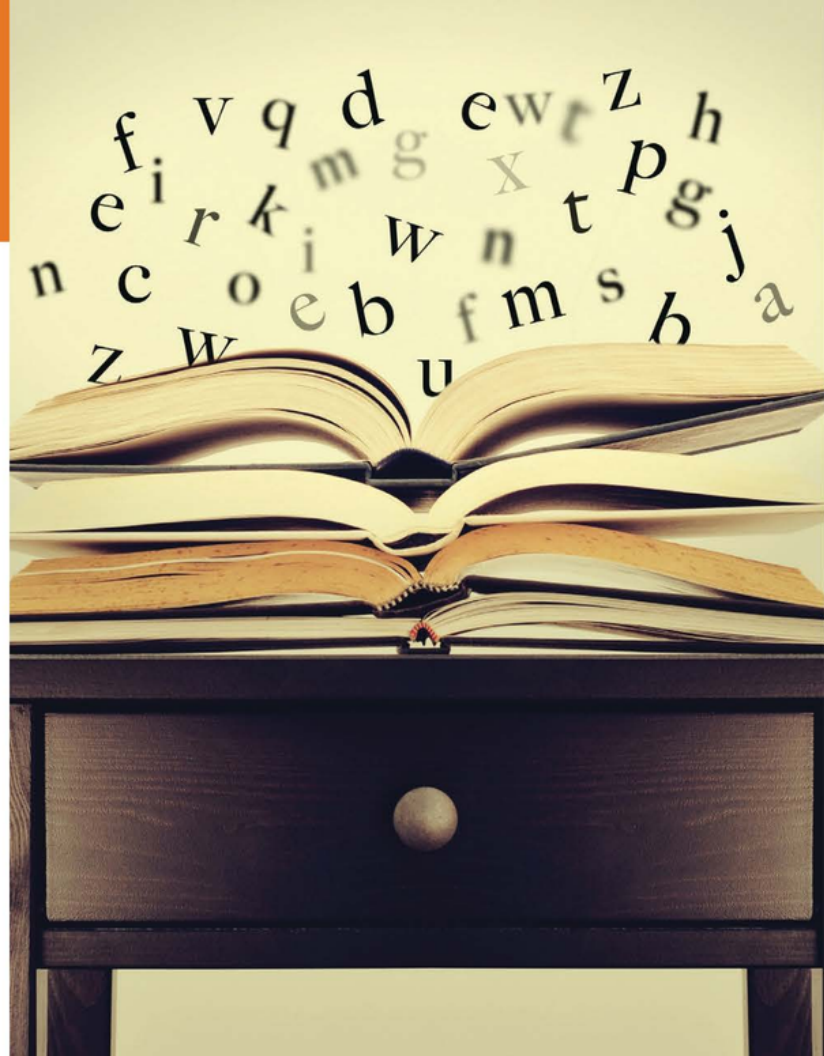




# DINNER GAMES

## Food Poetry

- Invite your kids to take a bite of food. They can even close their eyes and savor it.
- Ask “What does the food taste like? What is its texture? Consider its color, smell, and the memories it brings up.”
- Have your kids say or write down the first words they think of.
- Voila! They just wrote a poem!





# DINNER GAMES

## Who's Coming to Dinner?

Everyone at the table gets to pick a person they would invite to dinner and explain why.

The dinner guest can be anyone from any period in time, famous or not. What would you make for this person? What games might you play?

A variation: jot down all of the choices and imagine these folks all at your table at the same time. What would they have in common? How would they get along? Finally, if you're feeling up to it, actually invite someone to dinner (like Sarah Smiley and her family did in Dinner with the Smileys)!



# DINNER GAMES

## The Song Game

The first player chooses a word or a category (say, fruit). Each person at the table then has to come up with a song that uses that word in the lyrics and then sing it (at least a verse of it).

So, for example, using the word “love,” one person could sing part of “Crazy Love” or “Love is all you Need.” After everyone’s done, the next person chooses a new word (or category) and the hits keep on coming!

A B C D

E F G H

I J K L

M N O P

Q R S T

U V W X

Y Z



# DINNER GAMES

## Concentration ABCs

Everyone should close their eyes and go silent. Then, without any pre-planning, one person begins by saying “A”. The goal is to get through the whole alphabet with everyone participating, and without breaking these rules:

- Only one person can say a letter at a time. If two or more people say the next letter at the same time, the game is lost and you have to go back to the letter “A”.
- No sneaky “ordering” - don’t just go around the table!
- No one can say more than one letter in a row



# DINNER GAMES

## 20 Things I Love About...

Come up with a topic together – or put some ideas in jar and pull out one randomly. Examples could be a season or a person or place. Then go around the table and have everyone name something silly or serious they love about that season until you have twenty items. Make sure to write everything down so you can have fun looking at it a month, a year, or 20 years from now!



# DINNER GAMES

## Write a Love Haiku

Invite your family to express their feelings for each other in a haiku. A haiku is a specific type of poem that contains three lines and seventeen syllables. There are five syllables in the first line, seven in the second, and five in the third. They're fun to write and can be as creative as you can dream up.

Here's an example, family dinner style:

I love you because  
you make my favorite dinner  
and you make it fun



# DINNER GAMES

## Rose, Thorn, Bud

Go around the table and ask each person to share the rose (the best or most special part of their day), the thorn (the most difficult part of their day), and the bud (what they hope for or are looking forward to tomorrow). You can also add a “gardener,” which is telling about something you did to help someone else, or something that was done to help you.

