

Enjoy These Dinnertime Conversation Starters



When is it especially important to say 'thank you'? Do you notice when people thank you, or forget to thank you?



Talk about two things for which you felt thankful or grateful today.

How has your understanding of gratitude changed over the years? What did you feel most grateful for when you were younger? And today?

Gertrude Stein said, "Silent gratitude isn't very much to anyone." Describe the most creative way you've ever expressed thanks to someone, or someone has expressed thanks to you.

How do you feel when you receive thank you cards from your friends or when they say 'thank you'? Why?

Talk about something nice someone did for you this week, or something that made you feel better.

What traditions or rituals do you practice in your life right now?

What was your favorite tradition when you were a child? Have you passed that down to future generations? Will you?

Have you ever participated in a tradition from a culture other than your own? What was it? How did you like it?

Name your favorite tradition for each season, e.g. drinking hot chocolate in winter.

Come up with three silly new traditions for your family. Or the world. Or for aliens on another planet!

What Earth traditions would you bring to a new space colony? What are some traditions you would definitely leave behind? Why?

What is your favorite family tradition? Why?

What qualities of your mom or dad do you hope to have when you're older?

How do your friends/family help you?

What are 3 things you could give to or do for a close friend that would make him or her happy?



Name five people you love most in the world, and why (animals are OK too).

If you had superpowers, what would they be and how would you use them to help people?

Tell a story of eating over at a friend's house.

If you started your own charity, who or what would it help?

Have you met any new kids since you went back to school or daycare? How are they different from you?

If you could give one present to the world, what would it be?

How do you show someone that s/he is special to you?

Are there lessons you have learned about giving that you could share with others?

What 3 words would you use to describe our family?

Have you ever volunteered? What did you do? Did you enjoy it?

Who is your best friend? Why?

Did you do anything to help someone recently? What was it? If not, what could you still do?

Talk about a time when you showed loyalty to a friend. How about a family member?

When you do something nice for someone else, how does it make you feel?

Who at school makes it feel fun?

In *The Lorax*, Dr Seuss writes "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, Nothing is going to get better. It's not."
What do you care about a lot?

Do you know how much your family loves you? How can you tell?

Do you know someone who is a giving person? Who is it and what makes them so?

What is your favorite thing to do as a family?



Think about someone your family knows who could use a pick-me-up or a helping hand. Who is it and what could you do for him/her?

What's one act of kindness that you have done for someone in the last 6 months?

What can you give or do for someone that doesn't cost any money?

What is something you own and love that you would like to share with someone else?

What was the best gift you ever received?

What is your favorite thing to share with friends?
What is the hardest thing to share?

Have you ever had to end a friendship?
How did you know it had to end?

If a friend asks you to keep a secret that you don't feel comfortable keeping, what would you do?

What would you do if you saw your friend being bullied?
What about if you saw a stranger being bullied?

If someone gives you a present that you do not want or like, what are some ways to respond?

Have you ever had a fight with a friend? How did you resolve the fight?

If you joined the circus, what would your circus act be?

If you were a season, which season would you be and why?

There's a song that goes: "when the moon hits your eye like a big pizza pie, that's amore..." What other foods does the moon look like?

If you could, would you eat ice cream for every meal?
What flavor?

If you were a utensil, which would you be?

If you founded a new country, what would you call it? What would the flag look like?

Which planet in the solar system would you most like to visit?

If you had to give everyone in the family new names, what would those names be?

