

The Conversation Starter

Some of the best conversations with a child do not begin with “How was school?” They begin with a better question – and then a lot of listening. Here are a few to keep in your pocket, for the car, the kitchen table, or the walk home.

Three small things that make these work

Ask one, then stop talking. The silence after a question is where the real answer lives. Let it sit.

There are no wrong answers – and resist correcting the ones you get. A corrected answer is the last honest one you will hear.

Choose a moment with no eye contact required – a drive, a walk, washing up. For many children, side-by-side is far easier than face-to-face.

Better than “how was your day?”

- What was the most boring part of your day? (Children answer this one honestly.)
- Did anything happen today that you did not expect?
- Who did you sit with today – and who do you wish you had sat with?

About who they are becoming

- What is something you are better at now than you were a year ago?
- Is there something people seem to believe about you that is not quite true?
- What is one thing you would like to be brave enough to try?

About family and home

- What is a rule in our house you would change – and what would you change it to?
- What is something you think I do not know about you?
- Who in our family are you most like? Who do you wish you knew better?

Conversations like these are the heart of every KireKids book.

For the full Parent Guide, the One Real Thing Toolkit, and other free tools, join the KireKids Early Readers Circle at kirekids.ca.