

PARENT/STUDENT FRIENDSHIP GUIDE

6th Grade Conversation

OBJECTIVE

Have a meaningful conversation with your son or daughter about the importance of choosing friends wisely.

THE 411

The adolescent time of our children's lives can be summed up in one word: CHANGE. They are entering, or have already entered, one of the most transforming periods of life. They are, or soon will be, experiencing body changes, school changes, and changes in the way they process the world. They will begin to ask questions about their beliefs, and they will start to change their friendships. They will be changing their friendships soon, if they haven't already, and will base those friendships on affinity, whereas before, their friendships were based mainly on proximity. For example, you may notice that they no longer want to hang out with "Becky" even though they have been friends since they were 4 and she lives down the street, because they just don't have enough in common. But now we see that our children want to hang out with people we have never met, because they enjoy them and share similar passions. In this period of them forming new friendships, it is important that we have a conversation with them about choosing the right friends.

SUGGESTION

It's time for you to dust off the old yearbooks and be prepared to laugh at yourself. Make a special time where you and your child compare and contrast yearbooks and friends. Use the laughter you share while looking at your fashion style and turn it into a discussion about the friends you had in junior high. Tell your son or daughter why some of your friendships from that time lasted and why others didn't. Your child believes their friendships in 6th grade are the most important things in life, but you can explain that unless they choose the "right" friends, this most important thing in life will not last.

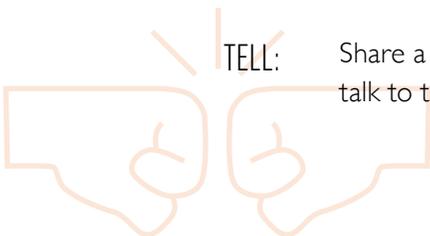
DISCUSSION

ASK: While looking at my yearbook, do you think I was a nerd, a jock, popular or a book worm?
If you had to guess by looking at these pages, which of these people were my best friends?
Do you recognize any of these people from my yearbook who are still my friends to this day?
Why or why not?

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: Friends are very important at every stage in your life, but true friends will stick with you for every stage of your life.

READ: **Proverbs 17:17 (NIV)**
"A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity."

TELL: Share a story about friends you thought you would "die" without, but now you never even talk to them. Explain why those friendships didn't last.



ASK: Do you think you will always be friends with the people you have as friends now? Why or why not?

What are some of the good qualities your current friends bring out in you?

Are there any bad qualities your current friends bring out in you?

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: Your friends are supposed to be a gift from God to make you stronger. Proverbs 27:17 (NIV) says, "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another." I want you to choose friends who are going to sharpen and make you better.

ASK: Do you have some specific friends who make you better? If so, in what ways?

How can you focus on those friendships, and what friendships should you try to stay away from?

What are some ways you can sharpen your friends? How do you make your friends better?

PRAY

We must be sure to pray for our sons and daughters and ask God to give them wisdom in whom they surround themselves with. Ask them to pray for God to show them who their true friends are.

