

## International Conversation Cafe

Lifestyle Topic: Children

Read through the questions from each developmental period. Invite a person in the group to choose one question to answer. Then that person will invite another person to choose a question and answer. After everyone has had a chance to answer one question, move to the next set of questions.

### **Babyhood**

1. Who is the primary caregiver to babies in your culture?
2. What role do the grandparents play in helping to care for the baby?
3. What is the hardest part about caring for an infant?
4. What are the joys of caring for an infant?

### **Ones and Twos**

1. What do you enjoy about this age of child?
2. What kinds of things do you feel is important to teach children of this age?
3. How and when do you potty train children?

### **Preschoolers**

1. Did you go to a preschool?
2. Are preschools common in your country?
3. What do you read to preschoolers?
4. What do you do when a preschooler throws a tantrum?

### **Grade school**

1. What are some of the important things children between 5 and 12 should learn?
2. What games do children of this age like to play?
3. How do parents encourage their children to do well in school?
4. Should children become fluent in two languages? How can you help them?

### **Memories**

1. What is your favorite childhood memory with your family?
2. What is your favorite childhood memory with your friends?
3. How would you raise children different from your parents?
4. What are some things from your culture you want to pass on to your children?

Adele Faber & Elaine Mazlish wrote a book called in 1986 called, *How to Talk So Kids Will Listen and Listen So Kids Will Talk*. This book has sold over three million copies. The following is advice the authors give parents to encourage cooperation and communication with children. Read through their advice and discuss your experience with such communication methods.

### **Dealing with a Child's Feelings**

1. Listen quietly, with attention.
2. Acknowledge feelings with a word.

"Hmm.....I see.....Oh....."

3. Give the feeling a name.

"That sounds maddening"

4. Give in fantasy what you can't in reality.

"Wouldn't it be great if everyone in our house had their own private bathroom?"

*How does your culture deal with a child's frustrations and anger?*

### **To Enlist Cooperation**

1. Describe what you see.

"There's a shoe in the middle of the floor."

2. Give information.

"The dog is chewing on the shoe."

3. Say it with a word.

"Shoes!"

4. Talk about your feelings.

"I'm upset that I paid good money on shoes the dog is destroying."

5. Write a note.

"Shoes need to be put in closets, away from dogs."

*How does your family or culture enlist children to cooperate in household tasks?*

Adapted from: *How to Talk so Kids Will Listen and Listen So Kids Will Talk* by Adele Faber & Elaine Mazlish

