

The Most Common and Futile Parent Questions

1. *Seeing your son right after school:* “How was your day? What did you learn? Anything interesting? Did you get into trouble?”
2. *Picking up/seeing your son after practice:* “How was practice? What did you do? Was it hard? Did you score? Did you win? Did you try your best?”
3. *Picking up your son from a party:* “What did you do? Did you have fun? Did you have a good time? Who was there?”
4. *Seeing your son in general, coming back home,”* Where’d you go? What’d you do? Who was there? Was it fun?”

Why Does Tactic Not Work?

- Do *you* remember everything you did today? Probably not. You had a hard day at work with many complicated activities happening. The same goes for your son.
- Do you ever feel like you just need to decompress after work? So does your son. He does NOT want to have an intense conversation.
- Refrain from talking to some boys in the morning—they may be just as tired as you!

How to Talk to Boys

- The best time to talk to boys is at night, a few minutes before they go to sleep.
- If you can’t stay up, the dinner table works just fine. Stay about from conversations about girls, particularly with other siblings around.
- Ask something that can be answered in a short time. For example, “Okay—best and worst part of you day in 60 seconds—go!”

Work Referenced

Wiseman, Rosalind. Masterminds & Wingmen. New York: Random House, Inc. 2013