

Argument VS. DISCUSSION

Every kid should know that we are always here to listen to what they have to say--an opinion, a concern, a question, a comment...anything. Our openness and willingness to listen builds trust and encourages future conversations. But every kid should also know that we are their parent and we deserve respect. Any time they need to share anything, they can choose a discussion. Parents are going to respond more respectfully if kids approach them with a discussion rather than an argument. "Mom/Dad, can we have a discussion?" is going to work in their favor far more than yelling and screaming at us or purposely creating a conflict or debate! Take time to teach your child what a discussion actually looks like and practice having a discussion together and refuse to engage when your child chooses an argument.



Argument

- Begins through anger or aggression...whining or complaining
- Yelling or loud voice
- Disrespectful words and tone
- Opposite Team
- Conflict-driven
- Frustration and annoyance
- No one is listening to each other
- Blaming and criticizing
- Relationship is damaged
- Parent or Child feels powerful and dominant
- Parent or Child feels angry and disrespected
- Ends with nothing getting solved--only additional conflict and consequences
- Future conversations are damaged and trust is broken

DISCUSSION



- **Begins through an assertive peaceful request: "Can we have a discussion about this?"**
- **Calm and respectful voice**
- **Respectful words and tone**
- **Same Team**
- **Cooperation-driven**
- **Patience and empathy**
- **Everyone takes turns listening**
- **Taking ownership and evaluating**
- **Relationship remains close**
- **Parent and Child feel valued and connected**
- **Parent and Child feels calm and respected**
- **Ends with the problem being solved through cooperation and compromise**
- **Future conversations are promising and trust is built**

Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry. James 1:19