

# CREATING A RHYTHM WITH YOUR WORDS...

## in PRESCHOOL



*Set the mood for the day. Smile, greet them with words of love.*

- Are you ready for a super fun day?
- Are you excited to \_\_\_\_\_ today?
- Guess who loves you! I do! Guess who loves you even more than mommy/daddy?
- You look so beautiful/handsome today!



*Reinforce simple ideas. Talk to your preschooler and play music as you go.*

- Look out the window at what God made.
- Can you find something green that God made?
- If you could be invisible for one day, what would you do?
- Would you rather have a pet dinosaur or a pet shark?



*Be personal. Spend one-on-one time that communicates love and affection.*

- I'm so glad God made you.
- I'm so glad I get to be your mommy/daddy.
- Jesus loves you so much. He wants to be your friend forever.
- God, thank you for . . .
- God, please help us . . .
- Are you scared? Let's talk about it.
- I love you.



*Wind down together. Provide comfort as the day draws to a close.*

- You did such a good job doing \_\_\_\_\_ today.
- I love watching you grow.
- Where's your belly button?
- I love your little feet. They help you run so fast.

# CREATING A RHYTHM WITH YOUR WORDS...

## in ELEMENTARY



*Be a coach. Instill purpose by starting the day with encouraging words.*

- Good morning!
- I hope you know . . .
- Be kind.
- You are beautiful/handsome!
- I love you.



*Be a friend. Interpret life during informal conversations as you travel.*

- I enjoy spending time with you.
- How exciting that you . . .
- Tell me what you learned today . . .
- I noticed you like to play with (name of friend). What do you like best about them? Can I tell you about my best friend growing up?
- If you had \$20, what would you spend it on and why?



*Be a teacher. Establish values with intentional conversations while you eat together.*

- What was the best part of your day? Worst?
- What do you think the wisest choice is?
- Don't ever get tired of doing the right thing.
- If you were that person, how would you want to be treated?
- What are three things you are thankful for?



*Be a counselor. Strengthen your relationship through heart conversations at the end of the day.*

- Can I pray about that with you?
- How did that make you feel?
- Tell me more.
- You can trust God no matter what.
- I love you no matter if you're good or if you're bad.

# CREATING A RHYTHM WITH YOUR WORDS...

## in MIDDLE SCHOOL



*Instill purpose by starting the day with encouraging words.*

- Good morning!
- You look so handsome/beautiful today!
- I'm praying that you have an amazing day!
- How can I pray for you today?
- I believe in you!
- Can I give you a hug?



*Interpret life during informal conversations as you travel.*

- Who are your top three friends right now?
- What's your favorite thing in your life right now?
- What was something that was your favorite that you don't like anymore?
- What's a movie or song that all your friends are talking about?
- What would you do on your "perfect" day?
- What would be your dream job?
- Do you ever wonder what it was like to be me when I was a kid? What would you like to know?



*Establish values with intentional conversations while you eat together.*

- You're enough.
- The choices you make today will impact your opportunities tomorrow.
- I really appreciate how you \_\_\_\_\_.
- What would you do in this situation?
- Be yourself. I like who you are.



*Listen to their heart by staying available—just in case.*

- You know you can tell me anything.
- If you can't talk to me, who would you feel comfortable talking to?
- I will always love you no matter what.
- Did anything happen today that was upsetting/frustrating?
- What was the best part of your day?
- Tell me more.
- I'm sorry that I \_\_\_\_\_.
- Good night. I love you!

# CREATING A RHYTHM WITH YOUR WORDS...

## in HIGH SCHOOL



*Instill purpose by starting the day with encouraging words.*

- Good morning!
- You look so handsome/beautiful today!
- I'm praying that you have an amazing day!
- Is there anything I can pray about for you today?
- I love you!
- I'm so proud that you are my son/daughter.



*Connect regularly by scheduling time to eat together (even if it's once a week.)*

- I love it when you hang out with us. Thank you!
- What do you think about \_\_\_\_\_?
- What do your friends think about \_\_\_\_\_?
- I admire the way you \_\_\_\_\_.
- What are your plans for this week?



*Interpret life when they occasionally open up at the end of the day. (Stay consistently available—just in case.)*

- If you don't feel like you can talk to me, who else can you talk to?
- I will always love you no matter what.
- Tell me what happened today that was upsetting/frustrating.
- What was the biggest win for you today?
- I'm listening.
- I don't know, but let's figure it out.
- How can I help?



*Strengthen your relationship by adjusting your plans to show up whenever they need you.*

- I will always be here for you.
- Is there anything you'd like to talk about?
- I enjoy spending time with you.
- Tell me about your day.
- What is something you would enjoy doing together?
- What's your favorite \_\_\_\_\_?
- I like you!