

25 Ways to Ask Your Kids ‘How Was School?’ Without Asking ‘So How Was School?’

In order to get the answers and details about your son’s school life, you have to get creative.

The Huffington Post recently published an article on 25 ways you can ask your student, without asking them the same old boring question every day.

Here’s the article as it appeared in the S.O.A.R. Newsletter with modifications specifically suitable for SPS families:

This year, Simon is in fourth grade and Grace is in first grade, and I find myself asking them every day after school, "So how was school today?"

And every day I get an answer like "fine" or "good," which doesn't tell me a whole lot.

AND I WANT TO KNOW A WHOLE LOT!!!!

Or at least get a full sentence. So the other night, I sat down and made a list of more engaging questions to ask about school. They aren't perfect, but I do at least get complete sentences, and some have led to some interesting conversations... and hilarious answers... and some insights into how my kids think and feel about school.

1. What was the best thing that happened at school today? (What was the worst thing that happened at school today?)
2. Tell me something that made you laugh today.
3. If you could choose, who would you like to sit by in class? (Who would you NOT want to sit by in class? Why?)
4. If aliens scooped someone up and flew away today, who should it have been and why?
5. Tell me a weird word that you heard today. (Or something weird that someone said.)
6. If I called your *Fill in the blank* teacher tonight, what would s/he tell me about you?
7. How did you help somebody today?
8. How did somebody help you today?
9. Tell me one thing that you learned today.
10. When were you the happiest today?
11. When were you bored today?
12. Tell me one thing that you knew that no one else seemed to know today (AKA –Tell me one thing you taught someone today.)
13. Who would you like to hang out with at lunch? Why?
14. Tell me something good that happened today.

15. What word did you hear most often today?
16. What do you think isn't taught enough at school?
17. What do you think is talked about too much at school?
18. Who in your class do you think people should be nicer to?
19. Where do you hang out at lunch?
20. Who is the funniest person in your class? What makes him so funny?
21. What is your favorite place on campus?
22. What advice do you have for Mr/s Fill in the blank ?
23. If you could switch seats with anyone in the class, who would you trade with? Why?
24. What was one visual aid/demonstration that you saw today and why was it used?
25. Tell me about three different times you used your (*choose one*) pencil/eraser/pen/highlighter today at school.

So far, my favorite answers have come from questions 4, 15 and 21. Questions like the "alien" one give kids a non-threatening way to say who they would rather not have in their class, and open the door for you to have a discussion to ask why, potentially uncovering issues you didn't know about before.

And the answers we get are sometimes really surprising. When I asked question 3, I discovered that one of my children didn't want to sit by a best friend in class anymore -- not out of a desire to be mean, but in the hope they'd get the chance to work with other people.

As my kids get older, I know I am going to have to work harder and harder to stay engaged with them -- but I know it's going to be worth the work.

This content is a reprint in the S.O.A.R Newsletter that originated in the Huffington Post. [Click here](#) for the original article by Liz Evans.

We hope this communication strategy works for you and your son. Please feel free to share your son's 'best' responses with us. maryp1@stpauls.com