



Five Questions to Ask Before You Give Your Child Permission



As a Queen Mom, you want to protect your children from harmful situations. Yet, kids will sometimes withhold information about their plans to avoid setting off any red flags in your mind. A great way to maintain order is by evaluating the situation before giving your permission. Use the five questions below to nurture the influence in your child's life and protect them from unnecessary risks:

1. Will the parents be home?

Take a moment to call the other parents and ask if they will be home. Some parents feel it is safe to leave their 10-year-old home if he has a friend with him. So, your child could be invited over without any parental supervision. Likewise, some teenagers take advantage of their parents being away from the house and throw a party. So, withhold your permission until you know the parents will be present. Most moms or dads won't take offense. Instead, they'll appreciate that you care.

2. Do I know the parents? Do they share my values?

If your teen is invited to a party with parents you don't know well, ask if they will be supervising the party. For instance, some parents have differing opinions about alcohol or movies allowed in their home. Just because parents are around doesn't mean they will keep a watchful eye on the activities. Make a point to discern their viewpoint before you consent.

Likewise, if your school-age child asks to visit friend's home or attend another family's outing, consider the same questions. Do you know the parents well enough to trust them? What do they allow? Do they use foul language? If you don't feel at peace inside, say no.

3. Do I know the other kids and how my kids behave in their presence?

Children are affected by their peers. So, clarify if the other kids involved are a good influence. Are these kids the kind you want around your children? Have you met them before? The pressure to experiment with drugs, sex, and alcohol can be intense, especially when kids don't think they'll get caught. Verify character before you give approval.

4. Where is this going to lead?

Children get together to have fun. But, some activities could lead to harmful situations, such as watching inappropriate television or playing alone in a park. Use your parental insight to assess if a child's request might escalate into an unsafe circumstance. Give your child the freedom to grow, but set boundaries equivalent with his or her maturity level.

5. What is the motivation? Why does my child want to be part of this activity/group?

Some kids fear that refusing an invitation may ostracize them forever. Your child may want to appease a friend, but not want to participate in an activity. Go ahead and be his excuse to say no. Then, help him find an alternate activity and other friends to join.

We all want our kids to have fun and experience life. But, we also want them to reach adulthood without the negative consequences from bad decisions. Be a confident Queen Mom by exerting a healthy, parental influence that safeguards your children.