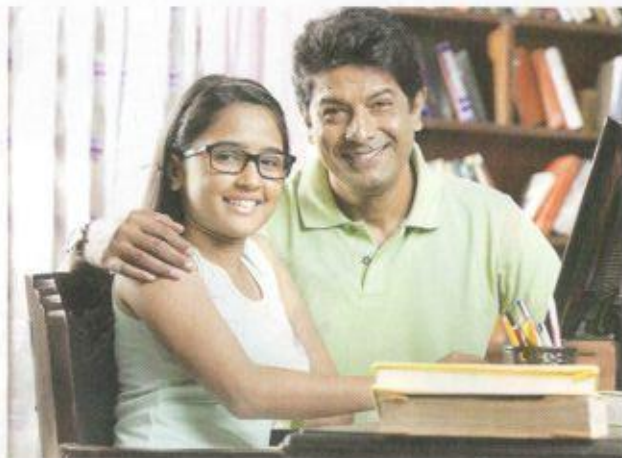


COVER  
STORY*Home debating*  
**PRIMER**

**E**ngaging children in dinner table discussion and debate from early age improves their communication and presentation skills and also promotes family bonding. Most important, debating current topics promotes inner family democracy and encourages a domestic culture where children's views, ideas and opinions are patiently heard and respected.

Here are some ways you can encourage children to develop the art of debate:

- Start in early age, encouraging children to be expressive and boldly advance their viewpoints without fear of censure.
- Encourage children to research current issues for facts and statistics
- Develop their listening skills by practising empathetic listening yourselves
- Remain engaged in debates
- Respect children's opinions
- Provide constructive criticism and correct repetition and diversion

**SUGGESTED DEBATE TOPICS**

Here are some suggested issues that can be the subject of debate at home:

- Are single sex schools more effective than co-ed institutions?
- Should the age for getting a driving licence be lowered?
- Should students be obliged to wear school uniforms?
- Should homework be banned?
- Children should be allowed to make their own rules
- Junk food should be banned from school canteens/tuck shops
- Exams should be abolished
- Mobile phones should not be allowed on school campuses