

The old question keeps being asked...who is more of a challenge to raise? A boy or a girl? Ugh. I still do not have an answer to that one. However, I do have the top 50 ways to connect with your teenager:

1. Talk to your teen about their day.
2. Volunteer together.
3. Make their favorite meal.
4. Solve a problem by giving your teen the choice.
5. Root for your teen. It doesn't matter if it is a game or a test; let them know you are there for them.
6. Take a glimpse into the future. What is their plan for the future?
7. Talk to your teen about sex.
8. Talk to your teen about drugs.
9. Cook a meal together.
10. Write your teen a love note - it will boost their self-esteem.
11. Develop a new healthy habit together. Exercise, travel, movies.
12. Rearrange or redecorate your teen's room.
13. Challenge your teen to a yearlong game marathon.
14. Plan the family vacation together.
15. Make your teen their favorite lunch.
16. Make your teen a hot breakfast before school.
17. Go for a walk or a hike.
18. Take a class together.
19. Hug them.
20. Buy a sponsorship in the yearbook and write something sweet.
21. Build or add to a family website together.

22. Plan a birthday party.
23. Watch a movie.
24. Do a puzzle and frame it.
25. Plant a garden in the backyard or a potted indoor garden.
26. Stay in your pajamas all day. (Perfect activity for a snow day.)
27. Have a movie marathon.
28. Have a picnic.
29. Go to a local museum.
30. Make your own t-shirts or sweatshirts.
31. Scrapbook or journal a day in your teen's life.
32. Stargaze together.
33. Go for a long drive and let them take the wheel.
34. Go to the zoo.
35. Serve at a soup kitchen.
36. Make a time capsule.
37. Go bowling.
38. Go to a professional sports event or concert.
39. Make a video.
40. Make a pillow or quilt out of your old T-shirts and blankets.
41. Have a campfire and roast marshmallows.
42. Have a garage sale.
43. Write a letter to a grandparent about something wonderful your teen did.
44. Bake cookies.

45. Make the best ice cream sandwich ever.
46. Talk to your teen about college.
47. Go on college visits.
48. Order out at your teen's favorite fast food joint.
49. Spend a day at the beach or a lake.
50. Read one of your teenager's current magazines.