

PARENTING *with a* WISE HEART

Interaction Opener and Terminator ~ Worksheet

Interaction Openers ~ Terminators

You read these words in *Parenting with a Wise Heart* on page 132.

Have you ever noticed that communication is considered open when it is good? Interaction Openers are like a friendly welcome. They are like being greeted by someone you cherish. The one you cherish is anticipating your arrival and her arms are ready to give you a hug.

Discussions can also be filled with communication terminators. Saying these interactions are negative and end the desire to communicate is almost an understatement. They wipe out the desire to communicate like insect spray sends bugs scurrying away. No one wants to be talked down to, disrespected, disregarded, or criticized.

Below are words that communicate either an open the door for more interactions or they terminate the desire to speak any longer than necessary. See if you can tell them apart.

Directions: Use the letter “O” to represent interaction openers. Or, use the letter “T” for interaction terminators that end the desire to interact or communicate.

	Opener or Terminator		Opener or Terminator
Consoling	_____	Criticizing	_____
Being Aggressive	_____	Supporting	_____
Name Calling	_____	Being Sincere	_____
Encouraging	_____	Moralizing	_____
Shaming	_____	Being Attentive	_____
Sympathizing	_____	Judging	_____
Being Rude	_____	Empathizing	_____
Ridiculing	_____	Blaming	_____
Praising	_____	Reassuring	_____

Once children see or experience communication being terminated it is very easy for them to begin practicing termination habits themselves. Some children—feeling left out—will believe that no one cares. Many kids, however, will validate Proverb 27.5 without realizing exactly why.

If possible look up Proverbs 27.5 in the Message and write it below:
