

walnut creek

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MAGAZINE

CELEBRATE!



more games...

Look Who's Talking

Small talk, idle chatter, cocktail party banter. We've all heard it and enjoyed it. But one day Christy Clarke, an Orinda mother of three, realized that she longed for more meaningful conversation. "As I drove my kids to soccer, I started brainstorming questions—fun, philosophical, and challenging ones—both to get them to talk and to enliven my next dinner party."

Her first questions for adults—What do you miss most about childhood? What role models did you have as a kid?—got results. And soon Clarke's entrepreneurial spirit told her that she might be onto something. In 2004, she launched a question game for parties and family gatherings, called *TableTopics*. A 4-inch acrylic cube with 135 question cards, *TableTopics* costs \$25 and comes in several editions, each with guaranteed conversation sparkers for your next dinner party or gathering.



"Have you ever been caught naked?" is from the Girls Night Out Edition, Clarke's personal favorite. "If you got a tattoo, what kind would you get and where would you put it?" is an Original Edition question. In the Couples game she asks, "What's the hottest thing about your partner?" For Teens, "If you could tour with one band which would you choose?" "Which famous athlete would you love to meet?" is from the Family Edition.

Clarke is especially pleased with how *TableTopics* works for families. "Cards draw kids out better than direct questions," she says. "I've also seen my kids become better conversationalists, and that's an important life skill."

TableTopics is sold at Kitchen Table, or go to www.tabletopics.com.