

What are Play Dates with a Purpose?

Play Dates with a Purpose are regular play dates transformed into opportunities to get other parents engaged in the effort to win back marriage equality in California.

How can I transform my child's play dates into Play Dates with a Purpose?

Changing hearts and minds by talking to Californians one-on-one is the only way we will win back marriage equality in California. You can transform your child's regular play dates into Play Dates with a Purpose by using them to spread the word to other parents about why marriage equality matters to your family and how they can help you win it back. Commit to telling your story about why marriage matters to your family to other parents during at least one play date every week and be sure to ask for support in winning it back.

How can I start a conversation about marriage equality?

Let California Ring (LetCaliforniaRing.org) is a public education campaign to open hearts and minds to the freedom to marry for all. Visit the website for all kinds of tips on how to change hearts and minds through one-on-one conversations with fellow Californians.

Here are their suggestions on **10 Ways to Start Conversations about the Freedom to Marry**:

1. Think about it—what if you were told that you couldn't marry or do something that was personally and profoundly important to you? How would that make you feel, change your relationship, your future plans, your life?
2. In a free society, two people in a committed, trusting, and loving relationship expect the freedom to marry and the honor and support that come with marriage.
3. People can have different beliefs and still treat everyone fairly.
4. Having the same opportunities to realize hopes and dreams is a cornerstone of freedom.
5. Even if we disagree on marriage for gay and lesbian couples, does that mean it should be illegal? Is it for us to judge other people?
6. Should we close the door on marriage and full inclusion in society for some people?
7. Not everyone wants to get married, but right now the government is making that decision for gay and lesbian people.
8. Does excluding someone from marriage impact their family's perception of their relationship?
9. Domestic partnerships don't provide the same security as marriage. They exclude people from marriage and create a two-tiered system at odds with the principle that separate is not equal.
10. If two people want the responsibility and commitment of marriage, is it the business of government to tell them they can't marry, whether they are gay or straight?

Once you've got the conversation started, tell your stories of concrete incidents when not being married (or recognized as married) caused harm to your family. Are you treated differently at your child's school? Has your child been teased because his/her parents can't marry? **Real stories about real families change hearts and minds and will win back marriage equality—tell your story TODAY!**

About Family Equality Council

The Family Equality Council works to ensure equality for all loving families by building community, changing hearts and minds and advancing social justice for all families. Find out more at www.familyequality.org.