



Podcast Episode 170
Unedited Transcript
[Listen here](#)

“How to Teach Your Kids to Be Interesting (and How to Be Interesting Yourself)”

David Loy: Hi and welcome to *In the Loop* with Andy Andrews, I'm your host David Loy. Andy welcome once again.

Andy Andrews: Hey David, thank you. I am excited to be here. Thank you for being here.

David: Absolutely. And I have to say something Andy, that I don't, you would never say it but I'm just excited to make a quick announcement here. We've been doing this podcast for a while now. And recently we passed the one million download mark.

Andy: Oh wow.

David: And that's pretty, that's significant. That's certainly, not said in a 0:46 way and I know that the listeners aren't hearing it that way, but we're excited that this is reaching people and people responding to it.

Andy: Well that's a credit of all the listeners. I can't tell you how much I appreciate you guys. You know, spreading the word about this and spreading this. And getting your buddies to sign up and listen. We are doing this for one purpose and that's to help people live the lives that they would live if they only knew how.

David: Exactly.

Andy: And so, you know, I've learned so much from you guys and the fact that we're having more people join us, I think it's just awesome and a credit to all of you.

David: Wow, it is fantastic. And gosh, one million downloads. And that's just downloads, who knows how many additional people have gone to the website, you can listen to these episodes on andyandrews.com. Countless people have done that as well. So it's just fantastic to be involved in this. So thank you Andy for letting me do this. And Matt Lempert, he never gets enough credit Andy, we should just pause real quick to say thank you to Matt one more time, for producing this entire thing. Because everybody should know Andy that without him, you and I would be in a technological abyss.

Andy: Well without him we would probably just be talking across the table.

David: And no one would've gotten the chance to download. So thank you Matt.

Andy: Thank you, Matthew.

David: Yes. Alright Andy, we've got a good question today. It might be a kind of quick and that's fine but we've got an email question that came in from Bruce. And this is again, it seems like so many people have unique situations and questions that they're asking, specifically about parenting. And I know that this is a passionate topic and subject for you. And we've got another good one. So let me read this.

Andy: Let me just say before you ask this.

David: Ok.

Andy: You know, if you hear that and go, uh, this is not for me. As they used to say, don't touch that dial. Because parenting is, it's just a euphemism for everything in your life. I mean, I'm telling you, every, I have really began to understand that like the parenting course, that we have, I mean, people are using that with their businesses, people are using that with their clients. And it's because parenting is one of the very few things in our lives that touches every aspect of your life. I mean, whether you have kids or not, whether your kids are raised and gone, you are dealing, you walk out of the house and you're dealing with how people are parented. You are parenting when you're working with people. You are parenting employees; you are dealing with people in a parenting context, constantly. And so, I have found to maximize my time and to maximize whatever impact you and I can have together, we talk about things that have the broadest ability to change lives. And so this, if you are not a parent or you feel like your parenting days are over, trust me, they are not. And there are so much that you and I can learn from these principles that we generally look at and say, well, that's kind of a parenting thing.

David: Absolutely. That's a great reminder. Alright so let me read this question from Bruce and Andy then we'll get your thoughts.

Hi Andy, I have been playing catch up on all your older podcasts and listen to one today where you said, the most important quality for someone to have is to be someone that others enjoy being around. One aspect of that from my experience is to be interesting. I think the best skill to be someone others want to be around is to be a good listener but there is a need for a verbal volley and I want my children to be well equipped in this area as well. We all have good stories or interesting things that happen to us or that we observe. Andy can you share how a parent might help train his child to tell a good story or anecdote in a conversational setting and to be engaging to their peers and to adults?

Andy I've been around your boys enough to know that somehow you and Polly have figured out a way to really help them in that area. They're obviously great, they've got great friends that are their peers, but your boys are very well equipped to carry on conversations with older people, with adults as well. So what are your thoughts on this question from Bruce?

Andy: You know, and that is a great question, and very helpful to people. Because again whether you're a parent or not, whether we're talking about your child or not and helping them, most of us need to train ourselves to tell a good story. We need to train ourselves to be engaging to our peers and to people in authority over us, or people with whom we have authority. And so again this is everybody, not just parenting, but I'm going to answer Bruce's question as he asked it. Thanks for what you said about the boys David. I really kind of agree. I'm amazed, it has been one of those kind of things that we have always kind of pay attention to how they communicate. And so we want them, in fact we often say that because they are very conversational, and because they can look somebody in the eye, and because they can smile while they talk, and because they can tell a story, and because they can listen attentively with interest on their face, because of these things, my wife and I often say, we're not worried about the boys as adults, we just got to get them through school. We just get them through school, they're gonna be awesome adults, they're gonna make great livings, they're going to be great husbands, they're going to be great friends. We just gotta get through 6th grade math. And so, here Bruce, are a couple of things, that might pay attention to. We don't have to take a ton of time on this, I think that this will be fairly self evident, it's just, so many things are evident when somebody says, well what about this? And we go, I can't believe I didn't think of that. But yeah, that's exactly right. Here's one thing. To train your child, to tell a good story or to relay an

anecdote in a conversational setting, it is very important that your child watch adults tell good stories and relay anecdotes in conversational settings, ok.

David: That's huge.

Andy: Now here's the thing. So many parents today, and I think a lot of them is because of the way children act and because of the way we allow them to act, most kids grow up on a periphery of those conversations. They don't get to listen. And part of it is because the parents do not enforce that they listen. Now David, you and I and I'm sure Bruce, Bruce you remember growing up and what did your parents say? Now you're going to dinner with us, but this is a dinner for the adults. And you are to sit there and listen. And if somebody speaks to you, you answer. But you are not to bring up topics of your own. You are not to interrupt, do you understand?

David: I'm laughing because of how many times my parents had that conversation with me and my brother growing up.

Andy: Oh my gosh, yeah. How many times did my sister and I hear that? And then, you know, when you break that code of silence, that you have like pledged your life to, so that you can go to dinner, when you break that code of silence, all it takes in one look from dad.

David: Yes.

Andy: And so, our boys, they get to go and to sit and watch things like that. And they have for a long time, because they know that, you know, you sit and you listen. And as the old saying goes, children are to be seen and not heard. Now this is not a hard and fast type of thing, but if they are ever to see conversations at

those highest levels, conversations where the adults are really, you know, loose and wittily bantering, they're going to have to be at the dinner table in some of those situations, not, the kids are gonna go eat chicken fingers outside while the adults go into this restaurant. They're going to have to be there. Otherwise they're gonna be thrown into situations as teenagers probably and everybody goes, that kid's weird. That kid would never shut up or what is with that kid, he kept playing his video game while everybody is talking. They won't act appropriately because they will not have watched. You know, I am a member of a, for lack of a better word, I guess it's a club, just a group of men and we have a place we all go, cabin in the woods kind of thing. And this was something that was started years ago by a dad, who had sons, and so it is for dads and sons, that's what it's for. But one of the rules there, is, that around the fireplace, you know, there are the nicer chairs, they aren't great or anything but they're chairs. And so, in those nicer chairs, the man sit, and the boys do not sit in those chairs. The boys can sit on the floor, around the edge of the room, they can sit on the steps. There's kind of a pit, out by this little lake and we call it the pit. It's just like, it has a fireplace and has some rocking chairs around the fireplace. And then it has, you know, porch swings that have been kind of nailed down and they're up around it. Kind of like, odd little amphitheater type of thing around those rocking chairs. And the boys, when we're outside, the boys sit there. And the boys listen. And if they're not gonna listen, they go do something else, ok. But if they're there, they listen. And then you know, once a weekend, one of the man will, they get boys and they'll get them up there and they'll talk in front of the guys. They'll stand up there by the fireplace and one of the man will ask them some questions, just kind of funny stuff and just get them to you know, standing up in front of other guys. Well tell us about that, you know, when you guys were, with your dad, and tell me about that fish you caught, and how did that happen? And we're training them to tell stories. They're just having fun but we're allowing them to see men telling stories. You know, there's

a guy at our camp who's particularly funny. I mean, he's really funny. Everybody loves him, his name is Brad. And one of the funniest things that we all remember and everybody still talks about it, is one day I was back in one of the other rooms and Adam and Austin were kind of little guys. And they came running into me, and said, dad, everybody's, they're in the living room and they're sitting around talking, is it ok if we sit and listen to the adults and Mr. Brad? So we always say, oh Brad, you're not an adult.

David: Kind of reminds me of uncle Bob up here.

Andy: Exactly. So you want them to be around those situations. Here's another thing Bruce, very quickly that you want to do. You want to encourage them to read. Because people who read, learn things. And people who learn things have something to talk about. You know, it's odd, people who read books, their minds go into different directions and they learn things that, certainly learn things that the book talked about. But the books send their minds in different directions and fire their imaginations. And so they go and think about other things, and study other things, and have conversations about other things. And so books, people who read books, have things to talk about beyond the books. People who watch TV generally talk about TV shows, or the stars of TV shows. And so, you want your child to have anecdotes and to know how to tell stories and to know how to communicate. Listen, one of the greatest ways to see how to communicate, is to read a book. Because whoever it is that wrote that book, is at least good enough at communication that, at least good enough writing, I mean, communication in the written way, that they were able to be published. And they were at least good enough communicating in the spoken word to talk to the publisher about the book and get published. And so, you can get your children around the kind of people in the situations that will teach them what you want to do, in person, when you're with them and alone, when all they have is a book.

David: That's really good. Bruce I hope you're taking notes. I hope others are taking notes as well, because this is some really good material. And obviously we summarize, Andy you know this, we summarize the content in the emails, that we send out each week with these podcasts. So if you're not on our email list, make sure you go to andyandrews.com, sign up for the email list. And you'll get these weekly podcast emails that also have the notes in them. And Andy this episode, I feel like is really rich with some content that everyone can apply. So make sure to.

Andy: At some point, somebody out there, write in, because I won't remember this but somebody write in and call in and somebody out there ask, how do we get our children to read?

David: Um, that's a good one.

Andy: because I've got some definite answers and ideas about that.

David: That's really good. Hopefully there's some people sending that email or leaving that voicemail very soon. The phone number to do so 1800 726 2639, or the email address, intheloop@andyandrews.com. We'd love to review your question, possibly use it on a future episode. And Andy thanks for your insight. Bruce thank you for your question. And Andy we'll talk to you next week.

Andy: Alright buddy thank you and thank you Bruce.

Would you like to run something by Andy? Contact us and your question might be featured on the show!

- Phone: 1-800-726-ANDY
- Email: InTheLoop@AndyAndrews.com
- [Facebook.com/AndyAndrews](https://www.facebook.com/AndyAndrews)
- [Twitter.com/AndyAndrews](https://twitter.com/AndyAndrews)