

# Ananth — A Parent's Story about Staying Connected

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This short story is a condensed, easy-to-read version of a conversation with Ananth (parent), pulled from a customer interview transcript. It highlights what 'staying connected' means to him, why it matters, what he tried, what worked, and what did not. For the full interview transcript, see the source file. ■filecite■turn17file0■

## What staying connected means to Ananth

Ananth describes staying connected as an active, ongoing effort — not an automatic state. He says he saw peer families' relationships drift as children moved into their teenage years, and he wanted to preempt that in his own family. For him, connection is shown through time and presence — not only money or gifts. He explains: "The kid will remember my father though ... he sat down with me, struggled and did math with me."

## Why this matters

Ananth believes the relationship between parents and children changes as kids get older. He noticed friends' children becoming distant in adolescence and wanted to avoid that. His motivation is preventative: to ensure they have a shared pattern of interaction before the drift happens.

## What he tried

Ananth began with occasional big activities: mall trips, beach visits, and long drives on weekends. These were meaningful but time-consuming. He wanted something that could be done multiple times a week — something repeatable, quick, and engaging. That search led him to board games. He learned about board games from a friend in an online group who mentioned games like Dixit. Later, he saw Seekers of Astrod in a mall and decided to try it.

## What worked

The repeatable, short ritual worked best. After buying Seekers, Ananth reports sustained play: evenings became a regular time (e.g., a 7:30 game ritual) that lasted for months. The key wins were:

- Regular, predictable interaction
- Shared struggles and learning (parent sits with child to figure things out)
- Laughter and informal bonding through play

## What didn't work

Big, infrequent outings were meaningful but hard to sustain on weekdays. Activities that felt like studying (e.g., sitting down only for academics) didn't create the playful connection he wanted. He needed low-effort, weekday-friendly rituals.

## A short, practical lesson from Ananth

Invest time, not only money. He insists that children remember the time you spent struggling with them more than the money spent on classes or gadgets. Small, repeatable patterns (short games or moments) matter.

Quick research note (condensed):

Studies from developmental psychology show that repeated shared activities increase