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Family Meals: The Secret to Better Grades for Teens “WordTeasers” Make Dinner Conversations Clever and Easy

MANHATTAN BEACH, CA – February 13, 2011 – Want to help your children get better grades in school? One way is surprisingly simple: Have regular family meals together.

According to a Columbia University survey, teenagers who eat with their families at least five times a week are 40 percent more likely to get As and Bs than other students. In addition, they are less likely to have substance abuse problems.

So why does eating together have such powerful and important results? “A family meal is time to talk together,” says Timothy Smith, author of *Connecting with Your Kids: How Fast Families Can Move from Chaos to Closeness*. “Everyone’s opinion gets shared. When kids have a safe place to share opinions, it helps their self-esteem, which is the background factor in those studies.”

But how do you get those interesting and fun conversations started? Particularly with teenagers? One way is through WordTeasers—a series of clever, table-top word games that get parents and their kids talking, laughing, and thinking—and learning something new at the same time.

For example, there’s **WordTeasers: SAT Vocabulary**—a word game that challenges kids, their friends, and parents to answer thought-provoking questions using vocabulary that they are likely to find on SAT or ACT tests.

Each **WordTeasers: SAT Vocabulary** game card challenges students with a provocative question or statement. For example, the front of a WordTeasers card might read: “Is there ever a good reason to **prevaricate**?” There’s no right or wrong answer to any of the questions; rather, each question is designed to generate discussion or debate. The back of the card provides a definition of the word (prevaricate: to lie), if needed.

“The goal of all of our games,” says Susan Flora, co-founder and president of WordTeasers, “is to provide clever conversation starters on a variety of topics while helping kids learn something at the same time.”

For younger children, there’s **WordTeasers: Junior**—a conversation starter similar to WordTeasers: SAT Vocabulary, but with words that young children should know by the end of the sixth grade.

Other products in the WordTeasers line include **WordTeasers: Funny Sayings** (conversation starters using idiomatic expressions), **WordTeasers: World Geography** (a game of fascinating and little-known facts about countries and cultures around the world), and **WordTeasers: American Heroes & Legends** (a deck of conversation starters based on quotes from famous Americans).

Each game comes in a colorful box that is compact and easily portable for family car trips or vacations. “The games also make great teacher gifts or stocking stuffers for the holidays.

The suggested retail price of each WordTeasers game is \$14.95. The games are available online at Uncommon Goods (<http://www.uncommongoods.com>) or at toy stores, stationery stores, and teacher supply stores throughout the country.

For more information or to request a jpg or a review copy of any of the WordTeasers products, call 1-888-967-3877.

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