

5 Date Nights

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A Night at Home

With little ones at home, there is always something going on. Doctor's appointments, carpool, play dates, and little fingers to keep busy, many couples aren't getting out as much as they would like. Most weeks Laibel and I enjoy a date night at home! It's become the staple in our home and our relationship to slow us down and take time to talk to one another about more than just the kids and business.

Recently, we found the perfect little chocolate shop in Cedarhurst, NY, called Cafe Chocolat. When I walked in, I knew right away that those innocent looking chocolates awaiting us were more delightful to the tastebuds than the first glance could possibly offer. Each one more enticing than the next, we were practically melting while we ate each chocolate, carefully tasting each flavor.

Whether it's with chocolates, wine, or your favorite card game, it's all about carving out a little time to spend together enjoying each other's company.



Get to Know Each Other (Again)

Make a list of questions to pull from a jar whenever you have the time to sit down and “play” together. Make a yummy drink, turn on the music, and have a good time getting to know each other again. Use the opportunity to build your relationship and have a good time doing it, you won't regret it.



Sample Questions:

- If chocolate chips are the best part of the cookie, what is the best part of our relationship?
- Name five things that you admire about me.
- If we could be anywhere, where would you see us right now?
- What is your favorite way to be greeted when we see each other at the end of the day?

A Night Away with Airbnb

A great mentor of ours has a monthly vacation on which he takes his wife to a nearby hotel, they sleep in a fresh and clean room, eat food they refrain from the rest of the month, and spend quality time together. They used to spend 3 days away every 3 months, but recently switched over to 1 night every month.

The more we have attempted to take similar vacations to refresh, the more we have learned how simple these vacations need to be. So before you pack your bags, consider how you would like to spend your night away together. A few questions to ask yourselves:

- Do you want to stay in or tour the town for an adventure?
- Will you enjoy the drive to your destination, or would you prefer to arrive quickly so you have more time to spend there?
- Do you want to go out to eat, or would you rather bring along dinner for two and stay in?
- Would you prefer a staycation where you can be together in your favorite environment?



Movie Night

While recently flying to Las Vegas for the annual photography wedding conference of the year, WPPI, the small screen in front of me continuously flashed pictures, advertisements, and “free preview” shows for United’s new in-flight DirectTV programming. Rather than “buying in”, I browsed through the TV schedule to get a glimpse of the shows, movies, and the range available from Hollywood Blockbusters to old classics like Men in Black and Lethal Weapon.

On an airplane, each person is allowed their own personal screen, and you can hold watch your favorite while he flicks through the channels. Or it may be the other way around. At home, if you want to make a night out of it and spend time together (rather than watch television in separate rooms), you have to choose something together! Pick a movie, pop some fresh popcorn, pull fresh biscotti from the freezer, and make sure you buy your favorite drinks, because popcorn can make you thirsty.

Homemade Popcorn Recipe

1 Tbl Canola Oil

1/2 cup Popcorn Kernels

Opt. 2-3 Tbl Butter, melted

1/2 tsp Salt

In a large saucepan, stir together the oil and popcorn kernels. Cover and cook over medium heat just until you hear the kernels begin to pop, 3 to 5 minutes. Tilt the lid slightly, allowing steam to escape.

Cook until the popping slows, about 2 minutes. Remove from the heat and let stand until the popping stops, about 30 seconds.

Drizzle the popcorn with melted butter and mix to coat. Sprinkle with salt and mix again.

Tour Your City

Living in New York, even outside the metro area, it is not hard to imagine getting out for a few hours to spend time touring your own city. You can do it in Manhattan or Brooklyn, whether you live there or not, or visit a charming town in Rockland County like Nyack or Suffern. Bringing along a camera ups the challenge of getting creative, talking to one another to brainstorm or point out new findings, and keep things interesting from one trip to another. Make it a disposable, and you have yourself a 'vintage' date.

