

52 Things Daughters Need from Their Dads

Practical Ways to Build a Lasting Relationship with Your Daughter

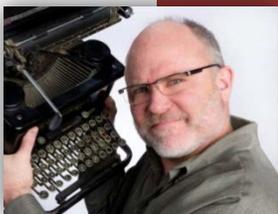
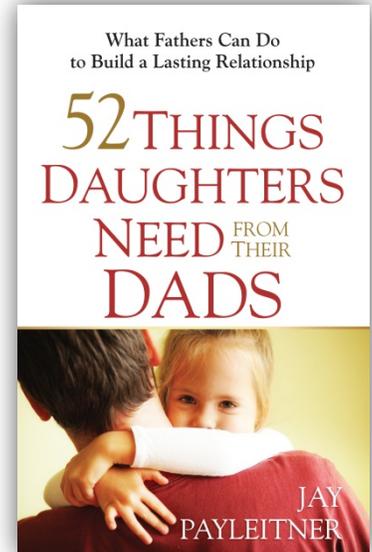
Ask a girl what she wants from her dad and her answer might surprise you. A survey from the National Center for Fathering of teens and young adult women, ages 13-24, discovered that contrary to what most people think, girls really *do* want their dads to ask questions about their life—from basic questions about their day to more involved questions about relationships, emotions, faith, and their futures.

“We think that our daughters don’t want us intruding into their personal lives, but as this study shows, they want just the opposite,” says Jay Payleitner, a national advocate and encourager of fathers, and author of the new book, *52 Things Daughters Need from Their Dads*. “It’s important for dads to build a relationship and ask the right questions. With sons, you march side-by-side into the future but with daughters, you need to turn more towards them. They need to know that they are loved, protected, and have value.”

Payleitner and his wife, Rita, had four sons before their fifth child, Rae Anne, entered the world, catapulting them into the uncharted territory of princesses, tea parties, and the eventual reality that someday they’d have to let their little girl go.

Drawing on his own relationship with Rae Anne, now 20 and a cadet at West Point, as well as years of speaking to dads, Payleitner shares 52 ways a dad can build intimacy with his daughter. His time-tested wisdom ranges from the serious, such as letting her know you’re proud of her, going on a regular date with her, or helping her become like the Proverbs 31 woman, to the not-so-serious, such as figuring out how to embarrass her at times, to be willing to do the Hokey-Pokey, and encouraging her to sign up for an ice-cream eating contest, all things Payleitner did with Rae Anne.

Payleitner encourages dads to be there for their daughters whenever they need him throughout their growing up years, asking and answering questions, spending significant time, and building trust. But then, he says, when the time comes, dads need to let their daughters know it’s okay to make their own way, to trust God, and to trust everything he’s spent time pouring into her.



Jay Payleitner is one of the top freelance Christian radio producers in the United States. He has worked on *Josh McDowell Radio*, *Today's Father*, *Jesus Freaks Radio* for The Voice of the Martyrs, *Project Angel Tree* with Chuck Colson, and many others. He’s also a popular speaker at men’s events and author of the bestselling *52 Things Kids Need from a Dad* and *52 Things Wives Need from a Husband*. Jay and his wife, Rita, make their home in the Chicago area, where they’ve raised five great kids and loved on ten foster babies.

Suggested Interview Questions

1. Jay, you and your wife, Rita, had four sons. Then you had a little girl. How is raising girls different from raising boys?
2. What can you share with us about your relationship with your daughter, Rae Anne?
3. What does a dad bring to a relationship with his daughter than a mom doesn't?
4. How can a dad instill modesty in his daughter?
5. You share the story of astronaut Gene Cernan, who landed on the moon. What unique thing did he do for his daughter while there and what can dads learn from it?
6. You write that a dad should treat his daughter *like* a princess but not *raise* a princess. Can you explain the difference?
7. One of the pieces of wisdom you share is to know *Who's on First*. That's a rather interesting one. What's the story behind that?
8. Are there any topics that are better suited to discuss with mom than with dad?
9. You say we shouldn't blame the entertainment industry for the stuff they turn out. How does a dad protect his daughter from the dangers of the entertainment world and equip her to battle against it as she gets older?
10. One of the things you encourage for the athletically minded family is to have dad be a coach. What are the differences that dads need to be aware of between coaching boys and coaching girls?
11. In the book, you share some *I wish* statements gathered from daughters around the country in relation to their relationship with their dads. How can a dad help make his daughters wishes come true?
12. You encourage dads to date their daughters. What are some fun things that you did with Rae Anne that might help get other dads thinking?
13. What is the best antidote for girls with low self-esteem?
14. What do you mean when you write that dads should be "scared to death" for their daughters?
15. How can dads prepare themselves to let go of their "little girl?"

Discussion Topics for Jay Payleitner

Here are some suggested interview topics you might consider for an interview with Jay:

How to Date Your Daughter

Dad's, you know you should date your wife but have you ever considered dating your daughter? Jay advocates that dads should spend time each month with each child by themselves. In this interview, Jay will share practical, fun ideas for dating your daughter, whether a preschooler, a pre-teen, or a college student, as well as the reasons behind why this is such an important part of a girl's life.

Crazy Thing Called Love

The responsibilities of a dad are heavy but sometimes you just need to lighten things up. In this light-hearted interview, Jay will share ideas for how to have fun with your daughter, whether brainstorming business ideas (dog pooper scooper, anyone?), doing the Chicken Dance (in public), celebrating her birthday in a special way, or even performing a routine together in the school talent show. (He's got a great story for this.)

Lights, Camera, Action

It's no secret that everyday your daughter is bombarded with entertainment choices. But what kind of entertainment is she picking in a culture where books like *50 Shades of Gray* top the bestseller list and vampire movies like *Twilight* rule the box office? In this interview, Jay will offer specific tips to help your daughter learn to navigate her entertainment choices, share why he believes we shouldn't blame the industry, and encourage fathers to help cultivate their daughter's own creativity.

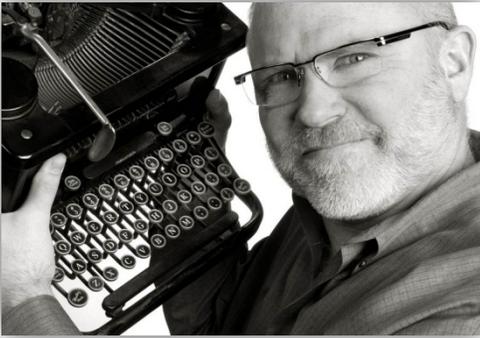
How to Raise a Princess Among Naves

Visit any toy store and you're sure to notice that the dream of being a princess is alive and well. But, treating your daughter like a princess and raising her as a princess are two different things, and the difference Jay says, is critical. In this interview, Jay will share his own story of raising Rae Anne alongside four brothers, why it's important to treat your daughter like a princess, but raise her to be a pioneer.

Who Gives this Woman?

It's a moment that many fathers secretly dread—handing their little girl off to another man. As Steve Martin said in the classic wedding movie, *Father of the Bride*, “Then, you stop worrying about her meeting the wrong guy, and start worrying about her meeting the right guy. That's the greatest fear of all, because, then you lose her.” But for many dads, that time is coming way too quickly. In this interview, Jay will share about the importance of earning the right to walk her down the aisle, how to help your daughter prepare for marriage, and how to be the kind of husband you want your daughter to have.

Meet Jay Payleitner



Jay Payleitner is a dad, and like many, trying to do his best for his family. He serves as a national advocate and encourager for fathers, sharing through speaking engagements, books, and other resources the important role of a father. He has served as the Executive Director for the Illinois Fatherhood Initiative and is a producer/writer/blogger for The National Center for Fathering.

Jay also serves as a freelance writer, ad man, and radio producer with credits including Josh McDowell Radio, WordPower, Jesus Freaks Radio and Today's Father with Carey Casey. He has authored eight books including the best-selling *52 Things Kids*

Need from a Dad. Other books include *The One Year Life Verse Devotional*, *365 Ways to Say I Love You to Your Kids*, and the acclaimed modern parable *Once Upon a Tandem*. Last year, Harvest House Publishers released two new books, *One Minute Devotions for Dads* and *52 Things Wives Need from Their Husbands*. His latest book, *52 Things Daughters Need from Their Dads*, releases in March.

Jay's path to his national ministry began even before he had kids. In the 1970s, Jay earned a BFA in theatre (a worthless sheet of paper) and sold photocopiers (a terrible, horrible job). He spent the 1980s creating award-winning radio spots, print ads, and television commercials for eggs, canned vegetables, steaks, banks, land developers, gadgets, grocery chains, the Chicago Symphony, and Corona Beer. While working for a major Chicago advertising agency he was the primary copywriter for Midway Airlines, which included producing TV and radio spots for Bears coach Mike Ditka. He also helped name and position Frito-Lay's "SunChips." In 1989, he left Michigan Avenue to do more important work.

Working with several major Christian publishers, Jay has created ads, radio spots, videos, and all kinds of marketing collateral. He has consulted on marketing Bibles, developed a wide-range of products, and even wrote the very first ads for Left Behind. Within days of the tragedy of 9/11, Jay conceived and produced the fast-selling American Responds audio series featuring Chuck Colson, James Dobson, Bill Hybels, Tony Evans, David Jeremiah, and Joe Stowell. As a speaker, Jay has emceed men's events, keynoted youth rallies, interpreted books and scripture, and facilitated creative training sessions.

Jay and his high school sweetheart, Rita, have four sons, one daughter, three daughters-in-law, and an occasional foster baby and live in St. Charles, Illinois