

Dating Waze Navigational Guide

1) Preparing your child *before* starting shidduchim

- A Build their self confidence and appreciation of their unique qualities
- B Teach principles of relationships through modelling and discussions. Encourage her to learn more about healthy relationships

2) When you are ready to discuss shidduchim

- A What you should be looking for:
 - ◆ Someone your child likes and respects, who in turn likes and respects your child
 - ◆ Someone who your child feels can potentially bring out his/her best
 - ◆ Someone who s/he enjoy spending time with
 - ◆ Someone with whom your child shares compatible values, goals and hashkafa
- B Make sure you're on the same page as your child; What you want as a son in law may be very different than what *she* is looking for or needs in a husband
 - ◆ Ask her:
 - ◇ What life goals do you have?
 - ◇ Where do you see yourself in 3 years, 5 years?
 - ◇ What specific characteristics/qualities are important to you?
 - ◇ What are her "walking (non-negotiable) issues"?
 - ◆ Check the congruency of inside/outside self-perception. How is she "packaging" herself? Encourage authenticity.
- C Describing your child to others
 - ◆ The more specific you can be in describing your child and what s/he is looking for, the better
 - ◆ 4x4; four things that describe your child and four things she is looking for
 - ◇ Helpful in creating and 'elevator pitch'
 - ◇ And in creating a resume
 - ◆ Be authentic and honest when dating; speak with your posek how to navigate medical and other issues that may potentially affect a relationship.
- D Networking;
 - ◆ Shadchanim
 - ◆ People from shul, friends, neighbors with similar aged children
 - ◆ Teachers and Rabbeim

3) How to investigate the shidduch

- A Reading the resume; are there any gaps? Incongruencies?
- B Call references on the resume. Also call people who know you and the other side ideally
 - ◆ Don't call anonymously.

- C Ask for a concrete example of the ‘wonderful trait’ they are telling you about. (“tsaddik? Can you share with me an example?” “what do you mean when you say “iluy”?)
- D Ask specific questions based on your child’s list of priorities
 - ◆ “On a scale of 1-10, how ____ is he?”
 - ◆ Does he have a rav? Who are his good friends?
 - ◆ Ask point blank your ‘walking issues’ or any concerning issues.
 - ◆ Listen to what is NOT being said
 - ◆ After speaking to 3-5 people, are you hearing a consistent message?

4) The Date

- A Role of parent; listening ear. No pushing
- B Indications that things are going well;
 - ◆ (somewhat) attracted, physically and emotionally
 - ◆ They enjoy spending time during the date. Not bored, looking at watch.
- C Pay attention to your instincts
 - ◆ If s/he shares with you something that doesn’t sound right to you, investigate
- D Red Flags (look for a pattern--one incident means *clarify*; not necessarily a red flag)
 - ◆ Gets serious quickly, says ‘I love you’ early in the relationship
 - ◆ Extremely charming, comes on very strong
 - ◆ Jealous, self-centered or possessive
 - ◆ Frequent contact, calling or texting, wanting to know what she is doing all the time
 - ◆ Attempts to control what she wears, does or sees
 - ◆ Speaks or acts abusively to others (especially mother and sisters)
 - ◆ Blames others for his actions
 - ◆ Acts hurt when he doesn’t get his way, or others disagree with him
 - ◆ Unwilling to take ‘no’ for an answer
 - ◆ Mood swings
- E Encourage your child to share
 - ◆ Encourage her to trust her instincts. Don’t brush niggling thoughts aside
 - ◆ Encourage a dating mentor

Have a question?

Call Shalom Task Force hotline

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