

GROUP DATING QUOTES

“ ‘I see the pre-dating years as a time when the “becoming process” blossoms. Girls should have equal satisfaction in the “becoming process” as they have in arriving at a goal.’ ... [The pre-dating years are a time] when the girl prepares for group activities, for having fun, for maturing, for developing. ...

“... ‘There are so many things for girls to do instead of just waiting [to turn sixteen to date]. Girls can reach out, recognize where they are now and enjoy today instead of just waiting for tomorrow to happen’ ” (Ruth H. Funk, quoted by Gerry Avant, “Pre-dating Years: A Vital Season,” *Church News*, 3 Dec. 1977, p. 9).

“ ‘There are many wonderful things a girl can be doing other than waiting for a date, like just learning to enjoy people and developing friends, which can be exciting if the girl will let it be that way.

“ ‘A girl who has many friends seems to be the one who will attract even more. As she enlarges her circle of friends, others will be drawn in. While she may not be dating, she’ll be sharing experiences, building memories and having fun.

“ ‘If a girl becomes anxious at times, or impatient about waiting to date, she should remember to talk with her Heavenly Father about the matter.’

“... The preparation years, which are vitally needed, should not be too soon interrupted by early dating. ‘A girl should handle this time of her life carefully, waiting for the proper season so that when her associations do bring her into a dating pattern then she is prepared to recognize the qualities that she wants to emulate. ...

“ ‘The pre-dating years, if used properly, can give a girl experiences that will help her develop characteristics that will allow her to be a powerful, positive influence upon others.’

“... Without the required time of preparation a girl’s associations can be very shallow. ‘Without the preparation time, a girl will be ill-prepared for the responsibilities that go with dating and strengthening others as well as herself’ ” (Ardeth G. Kapp, quoted by Avant, *Church News*, 3 Dec. 1977, pp. 9, 14).

“The urge for group activity is normal to the younger set, when they are not prematurely and immaturely stimulated in other ways, and the recreational and social activities of the crowd can be wholesome and entertaining. Physical and moral safety is increased in the multiplicity of friends. Group homemade recreation activities can be not only great fun but most beneficial.”

“Firesides may create friendships, and inspire the spirit and train the mind. Group picnics can discipline youth in gentle manners and fellowship and extend circles of intimate friends.

“Sports can develop the body in strength and endurance. They can train the spirit to meet difficulties and defeats and successes, teach selflessness and understanding, and develop good sportsmanship and tolerance in participant and spectator. Drama can develop talent, teach patience, and foster fellowship and friendliness. Group music activities have similar effects, and also can soften and mellow the spirit and satisfy the aesthetic needs. ...

“Well-ordered dances provide favorable places, pleasing times and auspicious circumstances in which to meet new people and to enlarge circles of friends. They can be an open door to happiness. In an evening of pleasurable dancing and conversation, one can become acquainted with many splendid young folk, every one of whom has admirable traits and may be superior to any one companion in at least some qualities. Here partners can begin to appraise and evaluate, noting qualities, attainments and superiorities by comparison and contrast. Such perceptive friendships can be the basis for wise, selective, occasional dating for those of sufficient age and maturity, this to be followed later in proper timing by steady dating, and later by proper courtship which culminates in a happy, never-ending marriage” (Spencer W. Kimball, *The Miracle of Forgiveness* [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1969], pp. 221–22).

OUR GROUP DATE IDEAS
