

SUCCESSFUL D.A.T.I.N.G

DECIDE

- Many dates go sour because no one took the time to decide what to do. You're at the greatest risk of making poor relationship choices when you're bored or feeling pressured by your date. Save the potential heartache and plan the date. Traditionally, the person who asks for the date is responsible for the planning. But that's merely a tradition. Anyone can plan the date.

AFFORD

- Budget for your date. Nothing is more embarrassing than having to watch your date eat because you can't afford a meal for yourself. If you don't have any money, don't let that stop you from asking someone special on a date. There are many ways to have fun without spending a lot of money.

TRY

- Be creative. Try new things. Some people take dating too seriously and make themselves and their dates miserable. The ultimate purpose of your date is to have fun while getting to know each other better.

INQUIRE

- Ask your date his or her preferences for activities in advance to avoid a failed date experience later. Does your date prefer indoor or outdoor activities? Does your date like quiet or energetic activities? Does your date have a favorite type of food? Favorite type of movie?

NETWORK

- Be sure to network with all parents involved. By letting parents know the details, you'll relieve their nervousness and increase the chances they will support your plans. Also, parents can be a great back-up system, if anything goes wrong.

GROUP

- Double dating and group dates are a great way to enhance your time together by creating safety, reducing nervousness, and sharing the costs. Find another couple or a group of friends, and plan an event together.