

Information for parents: general advice for all ages

- Talking and listening to children is important for lots of reasons. It improves your bond with them and encourages them to listen to you. It helps them to form relationships. Good communication with children is about listening and encouraging them to talk to you. This will help build their confidence and self-esteem.



- Talking and listening to your children from a very young age will get you both into habits that become very useful once they're teenagers. If you can build an open relationship where your children feel comfortable talking about what they have been doing and with whom, they're much more likely to tell you about the details of their life once they are older.

“ Development is a journey, not a race ”
ref Raising Children Network, Australia

- Positive communication isn't just about saying 'nice' things or sharing good news. It's about being able to really listen and respond in a sensitive way to all kinds of feelings, even about being angry, embarrassed, miserable or frightened.
- This positive communication begins before birth and carries on for the rest of our lives. It is important for all children to have caring, responsive adults around who model good language and who take the time to listen and communicate with them.