

Tips for Talking with Children



1. Actively listen and be responsive

Listen with your whole body, it can encourage the child to feel comfortable and be more willing to engage. Take what they say seriously. Manage your reactions; don't display shock or disapproval.



2. Consider your environment

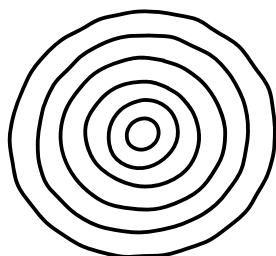
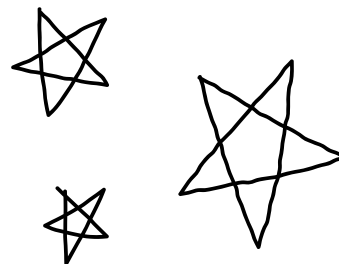
Meet in an area that the child is most comfortable

3. Give wait time

Don't rush the conversation. Always give them opportunities to express themselves without interruption.

4. Be honest and respectful

Don't make promises you may not be able to keep.



5. Use visual aids

They may be helpful

6. Don't assume

Don't assume that a child will behave or react in any way. Every child responds differently. Simply being an available, responsible adult may provide the support a child needs.

7. Be at their same level

Lowering yourself may make you more approachable. A child may feel intimidated if you are towering over them, so instead grab a seat or take a knee near them.



8. Be relatable

Children like to talk about what they like. Talking about their interests is a great way to start a conversation.

