

Top Talking Tips for Parents Secondary

✓
Build time for chatting in to everyday activities, like mealtimes; encourage your child to tell you about their day, and you can talk about yours.

✓
Watch TV together – talk about the characters in films or TV programmes. Ask: what would you do in these situations, what do you think they should have done, what will happen next...

✓
Spend time and play simple games together – this is best based on something they like, so if they are into football, talk about the best team you could ever put together. If they are into music, play the beginning of a song and see who is first to guess what it is.

✓
Play computer games together if they like to do this – there are lots of word games as well as the typical games teens like to play. Use the time to talk about the game or other things, like whether their friends like to play the same games or different ones.

✓
Look at family photos together and share with them what you were like as a teenager – family “stories” are a great way to get conversations going at home.

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✓
Encourage your child to ask questions or seek clarification if they haven't understood something. If they feel comfortable to do this at home, it's likely they'll also feel happy to do it at school, which will in turn help their learning.

✓
Support your child with any speaking and listening based homework from school – think about how they could use their language and communication skills to make their argument stronger, or get their point across in the clearest way.

✓
Give your child your full attention when they're talking; you'll have a more successful conversation if you show them that you're listening to them and are interested in what they have to say.

✓
Explore words – explain and talk about new words or phrases as your child comes across one and link new words to vocabulary that they already know.

✓
Give your child time – they might need more time than you think to answer questions or follow instructions, so give them an extra few seconds to do this