

Conversation and Interaction // Age 14+

Formal and Informal

Discuss with your teenager how we use different styles of language with formal or informal language and social situations. Have a selection of situations and topics of conversation, for example:

- in the lunch queue
- at the park
- visiting your grandparents
- asking how someone is
- discussing what you watched on television
- interview or work experience scenarios



Ask, Listen, Check Technique

This is a conversation technique that can help young people who find conversations challenging. One person asks a question and listens to the answer. They then check the information by asking for clarification or seeking more detail.

e.g. 'Have you been on holiday this year?'

'Yes, I went to Spain.'

'What did you do in Spain?'

Encourage your teenager to use this technique to maintain conversations and observe how others do or do not do this effectively. This could include commenting on TV character's conversations when watching favourite TV programmes together.

Assertiveness

This is a complex skill that lots of adults struggle with, but it is important that young people can express their ideas and feelings and choose whether they go along with their peers or say 'no' to things they are uncomfortable with.

Discuss the differences between passive, aggressive and assertive behaviour – what clues in someone's language, tone of voice and body language help us identify these different styles.

When watching TV programmes or movies together encourage your teenager to identify the different types of behaviour. Discuss how these different behaviours impact on conversation partners within the programme.