



MATURE APPROACH

Some conflicts with young people need a special approach, so you may need to negotiate with them, just as you would with any adult.

This will work much better than sarcasm, insults, shouting and slamming doors.

Special needs

Most of the tips about listening to younger children apply also to older children – teenagers have their own special needs which we need to recognise.

Respect your child's view

Your teenager is more likely to respect your views if you respect his or her views too.

don't impose your thoughts

If you think your teenager has odd views, remember that imposing your own attitudes could make things worse.

respect your child's privacy

Older children particularly need privacy. They need their own space and time to themselves.

They need to know they can talk about different aspects of their lives. Eg. personal relationships.

If you respect their privacy, they are more likely to confide in you.

Let your child know you're there

Even though older children need to know how to live without constant parental support they still NEED you!!!

No matter how independent your children seem, let them know that you'll ALWAYS BE THERE TO OFFER comfort and support

Make it clear that you want to be involved

If you find that your child **NEVER** wants to discuss anything with you, you may need to work really hard at it.

A good start is to make it clear that you are interested in them and in what they do.

Get help If you need it

If you are worried that your child has a particular problem –eg. job problems, addictive substances (drugs, alcohol, etc), relationships or cultural differences – you may need to get professional advice.

Your local telephone directory under “**COMMUNITY**” contains a guide to agencies and organisations with people who can help.

KIDS HELP LINE 1800 55 1800
CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION SERVICE
1800 68 80 09