

Career conversations

Information for parents and carers

For many young people, choosing a career pathway requires a lot of consideration and exploration.

Research shows that children begin forming ideas about careers from a young age, and gender stereotypes about certain occupations can emerge as early as six. This presents an important opportunity for adults to encourage open thinking and help children see that all career paths are open and exciting options for everyone.

Many young people benefit from opportunities to connect with a wide range of professionals and skilled tradespeople. Meeting diverse role models from the world of work can broaden their perspectives, challenge stereotypes, and help them imagine the many different futures they can pursue.

Parents, carers and teachers play a vital role in shaping young people's career aspirations. Starting career conversations before secondary school can help children explore their interests early and develop a positive sense of the many opportunities available to them.

How do we have career conversations?

- Make time to have career conversations (the Conversations cards on the [Your Career website](#) are a great place to start)
- Support high aspirations and take care not to 'crush dreams'
- Link learning to career pathways and opportunities
- Point young people to information on the range of career pathways open to them, including the [myfuture](#) website.

Try these career conversation starters			
What is something you have achieved that you feel proud of?	What achievements have given you the most satisfaction?	What do you see yourself doing in five years?	Are there any jobs you've seen or heard of that interest you? What do you find appealing about them?
What skills have you gained from your job, volunteering or work experience?	What would you do if your dream job was far away from home?	If you had a chance to learn about anything what would that be?	What world or community challenge do you want to solve?