



Talking to your child about their future

1

Accept their idea of success may be different to yours

Their dreams and ambitions might not align with your dreams and ambitions for them. This can be disappointing but let them walk their own path.

2

It's OK if they're not sure on a career route yet

They don't need to make that decision right now. They do need to develop skills that will help them progress, and that should be their focus.

3

Try not to make the decisions for them

They have more options than when you were their age - whether that's in taking qualifications, where to study or what job to train for. Your guidance is valuable, but the decision is theirs to make.

4

Encourage them to turn passions into money-makers

They're more likely to be successful (and happier) pursuing a career in something they enjoy.

5

Help them navigate their limitations

Not being academic should not be a barrier to success and there is usually more than one way to reach a destination.

6

Encourage them to explore careers that are interesting to them

Give them permission to explore careers that are interesting to them rather than interesting to you. This is especially relevant if you have a family tradition of all going into the same field of work or if you own a family business.

7

Encourage them to explore all their options

Help them plan out a route that focuses on their strengths. School leaver programmes, traineeships, apprenticeships and higher education options can often provide entry points into the same industry.

8

Help them if they are struggling to look far ahead

Setting short-term, achievable goals will help them strive towards a long-term ambition.

9

It's OK if they change their mind!

Reassure them that if they tell you they have their heart set on one direction, then later change their minds, you won't berate them for it.

10

Empower them: they have control over their future

The decisions they take and what they do matters.