

Children love having your company and attention.



They need your praise and want you to be proud of them.

Their security depends on you – they need parents they can rely on.

The closer you and your child are now, the better things will be for you and for them when they are teenagers.

### Spend time with them

Enjoy your child's company, listen to their ideas, know what they are good at, and what they enjoy doing. Have fun doing things together and make sure you have special times.



### Be a good role model

Children look up to you and copy your behaviour.

Show them how to deal with difficult feelings. If you are in a bad mood, tell them why. Say sorry if you treat them unkindly or unfairly.

Get help when you have problems. Show your children you can change and deal with things.

## What can you do?

### Have a family routine

If everyday routines such as getting up, meal times, playtimes and bedtimes are more or less the same for a child at home it allows them to feel safe and confident and to learn at school.



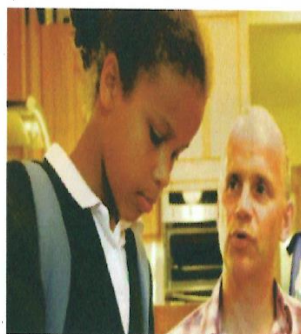
### Set clear boundaries

Remember you're in charge. Be clear about getting up times, bed times, how long to spend on screens etc. Children can get very addicted – they need you to be firm.

Remember that your 'rules' or expectations will change as your child gets older and able to do more.

Praise your child when they do the right thing.

Stick to what has been agreed!



© Parental Engagement Network CIC



### Help them to talk about their feelings

Give your child attention. Listen to what they say – don't dismiss their feelings and opinions.

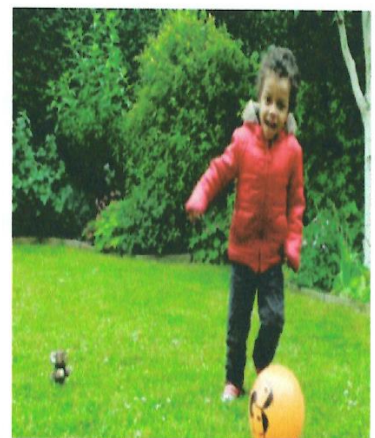
As they grow up they'll tell you more of what they feel. You can help them describe and understand their own moods and worries.

Reassure them that it's all right to feel sad, angry or scared sometimes.

Carry on giving them plenty of hugs and physical affection as they get older.

### Tell them you love them

Telling your child they are cared for, loved and special is very important to build your child's confidence and self-esteem.



### Be active – encourage exercise

It is important for all the family to exercise to stay fit and mentally healthy.

Too much screen time is not healthy.

Children need a range of activity to get out and to socialise.



There are many things that might make your child unhappy or worried. It could be something at school, at home, in their friendship group, on social media, etc.

Give them lots of attention and try to help them to talk about it.