

8 Top Tips for Professionals when working with Children and Young People

Written by Ambassadors for Vulnerable Children and Young People

1 LISTEN

We all know listening is vital but parents experiencing substance misuse problems, domestic abuse, disability, etc. are very good at lying and sometimes so am I. Read my body language, see my surroundings, take time to really know and understand me as an individual.

2 FOCUS ON THE CHILD

Talk to me - not my mum or dad or carers. Find out what is going on in my life and how things look from my perspective.

8 BE POSITIVE

Don't focus on the negatives – I have lots of skills and abilities. Focus on what I can do.

3 LANGUAGE

Professional's language and young people's language are very different - find a balance!

You talk about case files; that case file is a child/young person and you need to remember that.

7 BE RELIABLE

Always do what you say you're going to do.

Let me know if you are going on holiday or if you are leaving your job.



4 RELATIONSHIP

Build a relationship with me. Trust is very important and this can take time.

Learn about me, observe me play, allow enough time to get to know me.

6 BE HONEST

Offer constructive criticism – sometimes you have to be cruel to be kind. Be clear on what needs to change and give examples.

5 DRESS CODE

Find out where you're going and think about what family you are seeing. Remember I could be scared of you because of the authority you could have.