



Career education conversation starters

Parents and carers can be a major influence on students when choosing a career. The following considerations may assist when talking to students about potential career pathways.

When is a good time for parents/carers to talk to students about careers?

- Anytime is a good time to talk about careers.
- Talk to students about careers:
 - whilst watching a favourite TV show
 - during a meal
 - whilst playing sport or doing outdoor activities
 - during subject selection time.

How can parents/carers engage in a conversation with students about careers?

- Specific skills and abilities will help engage with students.
 - Be patient and listen. Try to avoid correcting students or rushing into solutions.
 - Make suggestions and offer advice.
 - Ask open-ended questions to help clarify student interests, sports, hobbies and academic subjects.
 - Be encouraging.
- Ask questions about the subjects students like best and why. Are there links between favourite subjects and particular careers? Would students be interested in these types of careers?

What activities will support students to better understand their career options?

- Focus on the student's strengths.
- Support students to select subjects they enjoy and are good at.
- Use free online tools to explore career options.
- Help students develop a curriculum vitae/resume.
- Encourage students to participate in work experience.
- Explore a range of post-school pathways, e.g. university, training, apprenticeships and traineeships, full-time employment.
- Review students' SET plans with them each school term.
- Visit career expos, industry events and tertiary education open days.
- Attend subject information events and SET plan interviews organised by the school.
- Book an appointment to discuss senior schooling pathways with school personnel, e.g. guidance officer, head of senior schooling, work experience coordinator, deputy principal.
- Encourage students to talk to or interview people who inspire them or are working in careers that are of interest.
- Help students set short term goals. Encourage students to write them down and revisit them regularly.
- Encourage involvement in activities outside of school, e.g. sport, art, volunteer work, paid casual employment.

