

TALKING TO YOUR TEEN

about school issues

Teenagers can be difficult to talk to. They often appear to resent being questioned. They may seem unwilling to talk about their work in school. This is a normal feature of development, but it can be very trying for parents.

Teenagers try out adult roles while they are, in some ways, still growing up. Young people are usually more open if they believe that an adult's questions arise from a genuine interest rather than an attempt to check up on them.

Discuss school work and plans for the future—but don't force them to talk if they don't want to. Point them toward good resources: There are many excellent websites with information on careers designed for the use of students still in high school. A good place to start is [Employment and Social Development Canada](#).



Skipping classes can damage young people's prospects. If you think your teenager may not be turning up at school, discuss the problem with him or her, or with staff at the school if necessary.





Take an interest in homework:

Homework becomes more important as pupils get older, but often parents bow out of the process by high school. Different teenagers need different conditions to concentrate. Some need quiet, others can sit at their computer chatting with friends online while listening to music and still do their homework.

Your child's report card should never be a surprise. If you are taken aback at report card time, then you have not spent enough time talking to your teen about homework.

Get involved:

Your support in school is still important at this stage, although it's likely to be more in the background.

-  Attend parent/teacher interviews, curriculum workshops;
-  Join the Home and School Association;
-  Sit on the Governing Board or attend meetings;
-  Provide support for school fundraisers and special events.

Adapted from *Talk to your Teenager*, The Canadian Home and School and Parent-Teacher Federation.
Resource Book for Literacy Exchange. 1990.

Children's Literacy Resource Guide

Québec Federation of Home and School Associations, Inc.

