



DREAM | DISCOVER | DECIDE



Do's & Don'ts



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Do's for Parent-Child Career Conversations

Start early: Begin talking about careers and work as early as possible, even in primary school, to spark interest and exploration without pressure.

Foster open communication: Create an environment where your child feels safe and comfortable to share their interests, dreams, and concerns freely.

Be supportive and encouraging: Show unconditional support for your child's aspirations and reassure them that you're there for guidance and help.

Listen actively: Pay careful attention to what your child says and observe their hobbies and passions without interrupting or judging.

Ask open-ended questions: Encourage deeper thinking by asking questions that help your child reflect on their interests, strengths, and values.

Provide resources: Help your child access career information, aptitude tests, internships, workshops, career fairs, and connect them with career counselors or mentors.

Encourage exploration: Support trying different experiences like volunteering, internships, or part-time jobs to gain hands-on knowledge and discover preferences.

Respect their choices: Accept and trust your child's decisions, even if they differ from your own expectations, fostering independence and confidence.

Link learning to careers: Help your child see how school subjects and skills relate to real-world jobs to make their education more meaningful.

Help them consider lifestyle: Support reflection on how career choices align with desired lifestyles, including location, work-life balance, and personal interests.

Don'ts for Parent-Child Career Conversations

Don't dictate career choices: Avoid imposing your own wishes or making decisions for your child. Instead, guide them to make their own informed choices.

Don't project your aspirations: Do not push your personal unfulfilled ambitions onto your child.

Don't compare with others: Avoid comparing your child's interests or achievements with siblings or peers as it damages confidence and motivation.

Don't discourage unconventional paths: Be open to non-traditional or emerging careers and support your child's unique talents and passions.

Don't be negative about work: Avoid complaining about your own job or the workplace, which can color your child's perception negatively.

Don't rush decisions: Let your child explore options at their own pace rather than pushing for early or pressured decisions.

Don't dismiss their ideas: Respect all interests, even if they seem impractical or different from what you envisioned.

Don't rely on outdated career info: Avoid giving advice based on old stereotypes or limited knowledge about current and future job markets.

Don't dominate conversations: Share your perspective but ensure the conversation is balanced, letting your child lead and express their views.

Don't ignore emotions: Acknowledge any fears, doubts, or pressures your child may feel instead of brushing them off.

Don't expect a straight path: Understand that career journeys can be nonlinear and may include changes, setbacks, and new opportunities.