

STARTING A CONVERSATION

We all want the best for our kids. We want them to have rich experiences, healthy relationships and opportunities to shine. We want them to understand right and wrong. We want them to respect others and respect themselves.

When we talk to young people about these issues, it's important to be clear about what's acceptable.

Each of us can play a part by discussing the things that may seem harmless, or that we might repeat to our children without realising.

This will help us move closer to a culture free from disrespect and violence against women.

With small steps, we can make a difference – and stop it at the start.

This guide provides tips on starting conversations you might have with the young people in your life.

GETTING STARTED

Talking about respect or disrespect isn't always easy. We might be concerned about raising issues that will worry or scare young people. Or maybe we just need some ideas to help us begin.

These suggested topic areas and conversation starters will help make that first step easier.

SOME SUGGESTED TOPIC AREAS

Think about the topics that are most important to the young people in your life, or find inspiration in the examples below.

EXPLAINING RESPECT

- › what respect means and why it's important
- › respect in the family or between friends
- › respectful relationships between boys and girls.

RECOGNISING DISRESPECT AND AGGRESSION

- › how to know if someone is being disrespectful
- › laughing at others or putting them down
- › bullying, teasing or name-calling.

PERSONAL PRIVACY

- › taking photos, being photographed and sharing photos
- › giving out personal information online
- › phone or cyber etiquette and setting boundaries online.

RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

- › treating people how you would like to be treated
- › not tolerating disrespect and aggressive behaviour
- › services like Kids Hotline and 1800RESPECT.

GENDER EQUALITY

- › gender stereotypes
- › males and females in the media
- › why you are both equally 'in charge' of a relationship.

SUGGESTED STARTERS AND OPENING LINES

Remember, you don't need to have all the answers. Just be ready to explore topics together.

- › What do you think of the way the women/men were treated in that movie? (Or in a TV show or game your child enjoys)
- › Can you think of a time you may have treated someone with disrespect?
- › Do you notice any differences between how boys and girls are treated at school?
- › If one of your friends was being disrespectful to you, how would you feel? What would you do?
- › If you ever felt unsafe around a boy/girl, where would you go for help?

See the full **Conversation Guide** for more information on the issue and our influence. It has lots of tips and advice for a conversation about respect. Visit respect.gov.au



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
**LET'S STOP IT
AT THE START**