

Resource guidance: film series 3

Career Conversations: How to support your child's journey to employment.

This is a set of five short films, for all year groups, featuring young apprentices, T-level students, employers, parents and teachers offering insights and advice to parents about supporting their child to prepare for work or vocational pathways. Each film focuses on answering one question on this topic:

- 1 | How can vocational pathways help my child to be successful in work?
- 2 | How can my child develop skills for vocational pathways at school?
- 3 | How important is it for my child to develop skills for work and vocational pathways?
- 4 | How can I help my child to prepare for work challenges?
- 5 | How can I support my child on their journey towards vocational pathways and employability?

How can vocational pathways help my child to be successful in work?

This film focuses on the importance of adopting the right mindset or approach to work, the transferability of school learning experiences and of instilling confidence in skills and attributes.

How can my child develop skills for vocational pathways at school?

Key messages in this film include the importance of parents and carers encouraging their child to develop skills awareness, to recognise the transferability of skills for work from the classroom and in managing school life and engaging with extra-curricular activities.

How important is it for my child to develop skills for work and vocational pathways?

The importance of transferrable skills, understanding why they are important and supporting a child to find opportunities to develop them forms the core message in this film.

How can I help my child to prepare for work challenges?

Focusing on the challenges that young people might face as they enter the world of work, this film offers insights into how parents and carers might provide support to navigate these. It highlights the importance of encouraging a child to allow time and to keep an open mind in adapting to new environments and to build support networks. Parents and carers are encouraged to play a key role in helping their child to understand the expectations in work and how this might differ to school.

How can I support my child on their journey towards vocational pathways and employability?

The final film more broadly explores how parents and carers can support their child to develop transferrable skills and prepare for work. Key messages include the value of parent and carer experience in guiding and supporting their child to embark on something new. This includes preparation through engagement with skill development opportunities and considering the individual skills, interests, preferences and strengths of their child and what suits them best.

When to use this resource

This film series covers the wider topic of skill development in school and the link between these and the world of work. The films are designed to facilitate parent and carer understanding of the importance and relevance of this and how they can support their child to develop readiness for work. The films are shorter to allow flexibility to suit parent and carer engagement opportunities in your setting, whether these are planned events or provided as part of an information source. For example, at a work experience information event for parents and carers or an options event, provided as part of options booklets, web-based information, e-newsletter, home activity stimulus, parent and carer forum or workshop or introduction to careers support at your institution. **It is important to consider maximising impact by using these videos as part of a wider activity, or with discussion questions or reflection prompts to accompany them.** See below for suggestions.

Maximising the impact of this resource

The strength of these films, as a tool for sparking conversation and discussion with parents and carers about Apprenticeship and Technical pathways, lies in the context in which they are presented and the 'wrap around' or follow-up work. Therefore, your role is key to their effectiveness in meeting this aim.

Developing a bank of Apprenticeship and Technical Education role model case studies, from your institution, to use with the resources within this pack will help to bring them to life and offers relatability and an aspirational element to this work. Once developed, case studies can be used flexibly with all our short films for a higher impact.

The videos include stimulus discussion questions at the end of the film to help encourage immediate conversation about Apprenticeship and Technical pathways. To support you to maximise the potential impact of these films on parents, carers and young people, a selection of 'off the shelf' and 'high impact' use ideas are included below.



Off the shelf

- The video links could be shared following targeted recommendations from staff e.g. during a phone call, reintegration meeting.
- A careers feature could be included each week in the e-newsletter with a suggested activity for parents and carers to do at home with their child. Video links could be shared as part of this with activities being simple reflection or discussion questions, or linked to Apprenticeship and Technical Education role model case studies.
- The videos could be incorporated into a work experience preparation/briefing event for parents and carers.



High Impact

- The videos could be used within a tutor time topic over a half term. Learners could watch each one weekly with a parent or carer and bring in responses to prompt questions to compare in class.
- An information evening or workshop for parents and carers could form a good opportunity to spark discussion around the importance of supporting the development of transferrable skills rather than focusing solely on academic knowledge and attainment. Encourage parents and carers to continue these conversations at home with their child. Parents and carers of apprentices and technical education learners, employers or alumni of vocational pathways could be invited to these discussions to enrich further, offering an even greater impact.

