

TIPS FOR WORKING WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

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1

PUT THEM AT THE CENTRE

They are the patient. Everything must be in their best interest.

2

INVOLVE THEM

Keep talking to them and involve them in decision making as appropriate.

3

BE HONEST

Don't tell them it won't hurt if it will or give them a choice they don't have.

4

BE RESPECTFUL OF AWKWARDNESS

Give them privacy and examine in the least embarrassing way possible.

5

KNOW THE LAW AND LOCAL GUIDANCE

Make sure you know what is expected in terms of consent and confidentiality where you work.

6

KNOW WHAT IS NORMAL FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

For example, young children have little abstract thought and need simple explanations.

7

KNOW WHAT IS NORMAL FOR ADOLESCENTS

It's not that they refuse to take a long term view - adolescents are not wired up for that kind of thinking yet.

8

GIVE THEM THEIR OWN VOICE

They may want someone else to do the talking or they may want a chance to talk, sometimes without a relative present.

9

DON'T MAKE ASSUMPTIONS

Looking at their phone may be them finding their safe place at a time of great anxiety. Don't judge.

10

PUT THEM AT THE CENTRE

Point 1 repeated for a reason- wherever adults are involved, the child or young persons needs and wishes can be forgotten.