

# TOP TIPS

## For Social Workers working with Children and Young People



The Family Justice Young People's Board (FJYPB) are a group of over 50 children and young people aged between seven and 25 years old who live across England and Wales. All of our members have either had direct experience of the family justice system or have an interest in children's rights and the family courts. You can find out more about the FJYPB at [www.cafcass/fjypb](http://www.cafcass/fjypb)

The FJYPB have devised these top tips for social workers who work and engage with children and young people in the family courts, based on their own experiences.

1

• Allow enough time to get to know me and for us to build up a trusting relationship. Be friendly and approachable. It may take time for me to feel comfortable talking about personal issues.

2

• Ask me when and where I would like to meet with you. Please don't assume that my school is the best place. Also please let me know in advance about the meeting.

3

• Be creative and use different tools and methods that will help me talk about personal things with you. Let's also have some fun along with more serious discussions.

4

• Be honest with me. Keep me updated about any decisions made or possible changes to my life. Make sure I really understand what is happening and what my options are.

5

• Be easy to contact. Give me your contact details (telephone number and email address). Get back to me as quickly as possible if I contact you.

6

• If you can't meet with me or you go off work absent, make sure I am informed. Also ensure I have another person I can contact if I need to. Who knows what is going on with me?

7

• Please do share my information if you have to hand over to another social worker. Make sure that the things that are important to me don't get lost or forgotten.

8

• Be prepared and please read my case file before we meet. I do not want to have to keep repeating myself.

9

• Remember the important dates and achievements for me. Don't just get in touch for reviews and meetings. If you are writing reports about me offer to share the information with me.

10

• Ensure I know how I can give feedback and who I can talk to if I am unhappy with something.

11

• I understand that you have to share some information with other people, but not everyone involved in my life needs to know everything. Please respect my privacy and ask me for permission of what information I want sharing and with whom. Please be aware that I might be embarrassed if you share specific information about me.

12

• My siblings are very important to me, but I may want different things to them. See us as individuals. Meet us separately and together.

13

• Remember that I have family and friends that are important to me and I might need your help to maintain those relationships

14

• Ask me about my life, what is important to me and about my hobbies and interests. These things make up who I am. Consider these when making decisions about my life.