

Hobbies & Opportunities

Three things to know

- * A hobby can make a teenager feel happier in a variety of ways. Hobbies allow them to learn new skills, meet new people and discover new passions. They can enrich your child's life and increase physical and social interactions. Hobbies can also prevent teenagers from feeling bored and can keep them entertained.
- * Research indicates that most children try five hobbies before they find what they like. Studies also show that children who engage with hobbies are more sociable, don't get bored as easily and are supported to have good mental health.
- * Teenagers need free time to explore their own interests, unwind, build relationships and have fun. Research shows that young people thrive on connections they develop, which demonstrates how valuable hobbies are.

Three things to do if your child is at Key Stage 3 or 4

- * There are many different hobbies for your child to choose from including sports, music, arts, building, computers, reading, photography, pet care and more. Encourage your child to take part in individual or group hobbies to enrich their lives and explore their interests.
- * Talk to your child about what they are interested in and what hobbies they would like to try. Carry out some research in your local area and community to see what they could get involved in. You could also take part in a new hobby together or they could get some friends involved too.
- * Explain to your child the importance of hobbies to help them be proactive and to take action. Reinforce the importance of hobbies, such as to build confidence, learn new skills, help to choose a career, meet new people, disconnect from technology and discover new interests.

