

THE CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT - DO THE RIGHT THING LOCAL PROJECT

ADULT RESPONSIBILITIES

Children discussed the responsibilities adults have towards children to ensure they live safe, happy and healthy lives whilst also having their needs understood and rights respected.

At the core of their discussions children identified that adult responsibilities include providing the **love, care and attention** a child needs. They said:

- 'Love and care for us. Give us a good life'

Taking the provision of these key needs as 'given' children and young people also highlighted other adult responsibilities under these themes. Some examples of the comments from children are included:

Take time to be with your children

- 'Tell us ancient stories'
- 'Don't be so busy'
- 'Have energy for me'
- 'My dad is always working and the only time he is off he is drunk or playing the X-Box'
- 'Teach us things'

Respect and trust your children

- 'Treat me like you want to be treated'
- 'Trust me and be someone I can trust'
- 'Don't think you're bigger and better than us'
- 'More respect because usually I don't get it. People don't listen to me'

Listen to your children and involve them in decisions

- 'Act on what I'm telling you'
- 'Ask us when you are deciding things'

Help your children with their hobbies and interests

- 'Rugby because it's the only thing that makes me feel special and I feel cool when I'm part of something'

Be fair; give your child space and freedom

- 'Don't be so harsh'
- 'Don't crowd me, I won't listen'
- 'I think I should get discipline, to keep me right in life – not doing alcohol or drugs. But I would like some freedom too'