

TOP 5 TIPS

ON EFFECTIVE, INCLUSIVE CHILD-FIRST COMMUNICATION



1. **Understand preferences** – Always find out how the person likes to communicate before starting the conversation. Provide a safe space for young people to use their voice and advocate for themselves.



2. **Ask, don't tell** – Always ask the young person's opinions and ideas, try to implement them where you can and, if you can't, explain why.



3. **Collaborate** – Think outside the box and work with the young person to help come up with new ways of doing things.



4. **Empower** – Don't assume you know what is right or best for the young person, ask them first, they are the experts in themselves and their needs.



5. **Individualise** – Don't use a one size fits all approach, treat everyone as the individual they are.