**Facilitating Discussion on Sensitive Topics – Parents**

As Prevent facilitated training, these sessions are approached from the perspective of having conversations about terrorism, extremism, Hate Crime, and perhaps intolerant perspectives. However, ‘difficult conversations’ can cover a wide range of topics, from drugs, alcohol, sex, abuse, and bullying. These resources are adaptable, and good conversation can help develop any relationship – personally and professionally.

**The benefits of good communication and conversations (NSPCC):**

* Children acquire concepts and reasoning ability through active talk – cementing and internalising ideas and concepts.
* Open discussion has also been linked to increased political interest and civil tolerance, whilst decreasing negative attributes such as dogmatism.
* Good conversation helps develop emotional and social maturity

**Creating the right situation:**

Whatever it is you want to discuss, it’s important to think about where and how to talk so children will listen.

* Not evening when tired or less likely to concentrate
* No others around to interrupt
* Relaxed and neutral place like a walk, coffee, or the car
* Ask other parents for advice!

**Starting and maintaining the conversation:**

* Balance between forcing a topic, or letting the topic get derailed – it’s hard!
* Make your conversation relevant in some way. E.g. connect to a TV programme.
* Ask your child what they would do in that situation/ how they would help a friend
* Younger children – story books. After reading a few times ask some gentle questions
* It could be they have already learned about the topic at school. Talk to them about it and see what everyone in the class through about what they were being taught.
* Involve the world around you – is there a local context? Do you talk about the current news items?
* Don’t forget to include some good news stories!

**What to do – links and further resources.**

NSPCC online safety and good conversations:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/> To report a Hate Crime:

Educate Against Hate (online radicalisation): Go to Enfield CSU page online

<https://educateagainsthate.com/online-radicalisation/> Go to the Police web page

Parentzone: Tell MAMA (anti-Muslim hate crime)

<https://parentzone.org.uk/home>

Guide to Apps:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/apps-guide/>

Community Safety Unit: 020 8379 6137 Counter Terror Hotline: 0800 789 321