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**Finding it hard to support your child when making career choices?**

**Top Ten Tips for Parents/Carers**

Supporting your child/a young person to investigate a future career is a daunting experience at the best of times, let alone in a pandemic!

Here at the Home Building Skills Partnership (HBSP) we have developed our top ten tips for parents/carers to enable you to help with exploring the options and determining the right career path.

1. Take time to consider all options. Thinking about what your child doesn’t like doing is just as important as what they enjoy doing. If they don’t like working outside in the winter, then applying for trade apprenticeships may not be a suitable choice.
2. Try to attend careers fairs and information events to gain a fully rounded view of an industry or course and gain knowledge of the skill requirements.
3. Look at apprenticeships and degrees - understand the pros and cons of each – every child is different so what suits one won’t suit another. There is no right or wrong path and that is what is fantastic about housebuilding, as there is a route in for everyone irrespective of your experience and qualifications.
4. Check what opportunities might exist post apprenticeship / completion of a degree - once this stage has been completed what are the opportunities for further education and/or employment.
5. Helping see the long game – don’t assume things are how they used to be – apprenticeships today offer great opportunities for progression and there are lots of different types of apprenticeships which enable you to earn while you learn.
6. Questioning and researching – understand the point, purpose, and benefit of the different options available to them. Encourage your child to speak to other people of their age who have completed similar routes. There are lots of opportunities to speak with ambassadors of the industry especially in STEM careers.
7. Cutting the apron strings – let them do things for themselves – this will build their skills and confidence
8. Do not put all your eggs in one basket – explain the importance of having aback up plan in case their first choice doesn’t work out. Apply for more than one university as well as apprenticeships and colleges. It is important to keep your options open.

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1. Don’t miss lower-level qualifications - they are a good steppingstone, and it doesn’t mean you can move onto a higher level in the future.
2. Importance of practicalities – encourage your child to think about how they are going to get to the place of employment, college, university. Research bus routes, train stations. How are they going to fund their travel?
3. Benefit of a good CV – you don’t have to have lots of experience on your CV especially if they are just starting their career, but a good personal statement and the details of any work experience or volunteering are important. It is also necessary to review and update the CV.