

3. Encourage your child to try new things

This could be new foods, a new activity or a new experience. Praise their willingness to 'give things a go' rather than whether they were 'good' at it. This will give them confidence to continue to develop and grow.

4. Listen to your child's hopes and dreams for the future

Encourage your child to see that everything they are doing right now is a tiny step towards who they might want to become in the future. For example, your child staying away from home for a night is a step towards them being able to leave home for study or work in the future. Your child helping another child is an important step towards them becoming a counsellor, a doctor, a nurse or a teacher etc.

5. Support your child to learn from tough situations

It can be really hard when your child is not getting on with friends or having a problem with a teacher, or is disappointed with how something has worked out. Acknowledge the difficult feelings, but help your child to see that these situations help us to grow and develop so that we are better able to cope with life's ups and downs.

Activities from Place2Be's Art Room

Support Balloon – have a go at this simple art activity with your children. Aimed at primary-age children, this activity from can help children think about who supports them to grow.

bit.ly/3m2R9ib 

My Changing Shapes – try this activity designed for secondary-age children. This activity supports young people to look back at their past growth.

bit.ly/3nhiYTI 

Looking for free practical advice to help you support your child?

Parenting Smart, Place2Be's site for parents and carers, is full of expert advice and tips on supporting the emotional wellbeing and growth of primary-age children.

parentingsmart.org.uk 

Let your child know that if they are worried about something, they should always talk to an adult they trust. It could be you, someone in your family, a teacher or someone else in their school.

If you're worried about your child's mental health you can talk to your GP or someone at your child's school.

You can also find a list of organisations that provide support and advice on our website:

place2be.org.uk/help 

