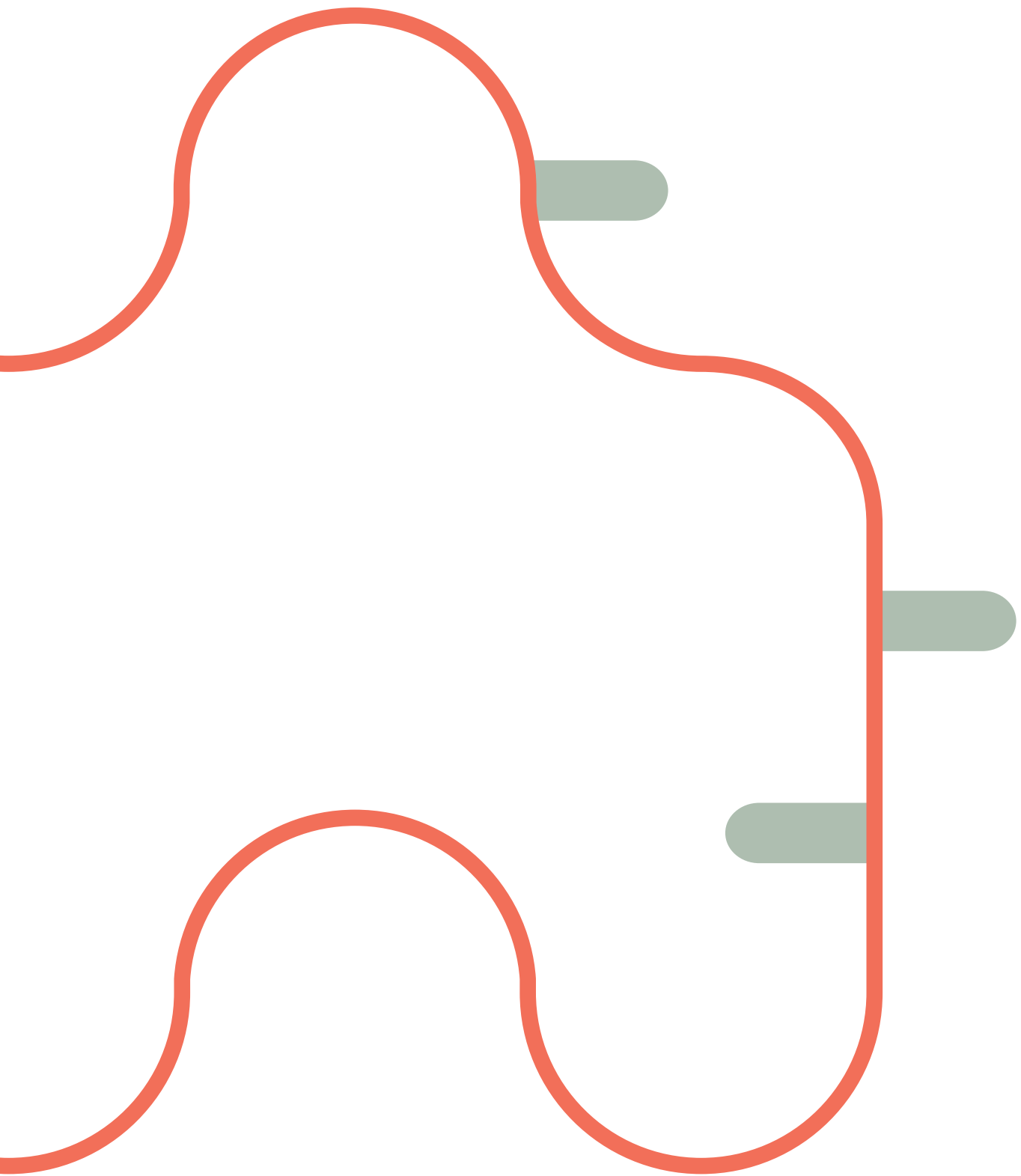




Supporting Your Child Through Career Decisions

Why your role isn't to have all the answers — it's to create the space where your child can discover them.



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Supporting Your Child Through Career Decisions

If This Feels Like a Big Responsibility, You're Not Alone



As a parent, it can sometimes feel as though your child's future depends on a handful of important decisions.

Subject choices.

Career direction.

CAO application.

College courses.

Naturally, you want to help.

You want your child to make good decisions, find work they'll enjoy and keep their options open.

That's why career conversations can sometimes feel so important.

Many parents quietly wonder:

"Am I saying the right thing?"

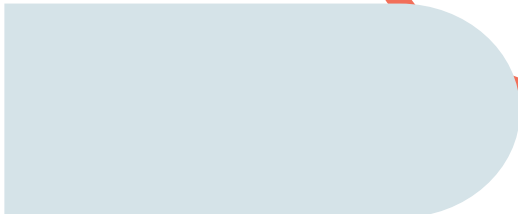
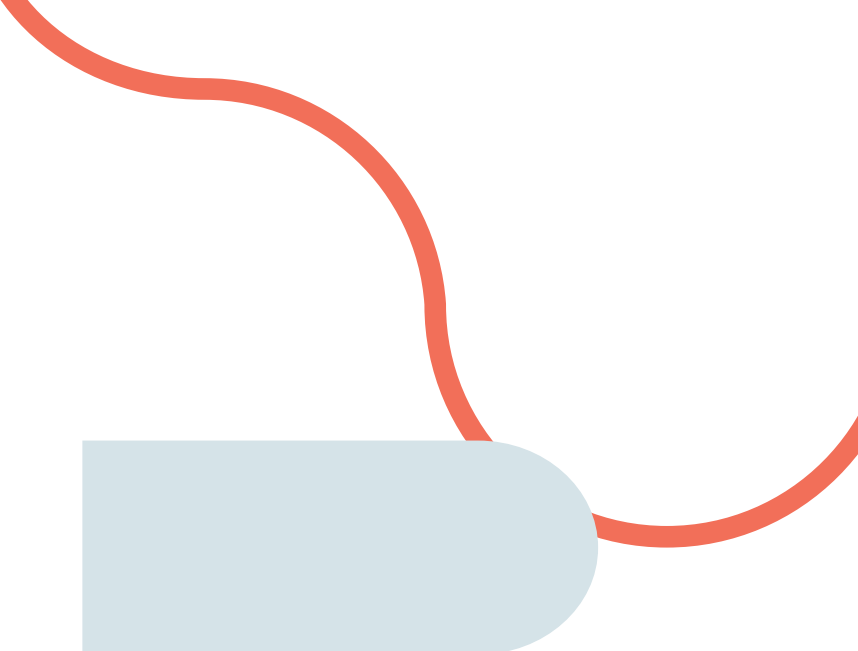
"Should I be giving more advice?"

"What if they make the wrong decision?"

If you've ever asked yourself those questions, you're certainly not alone.

Supporting Your Child Through Career Decisions

The Biggest Mistake Most Parents Make



The interesting thing is that the biggest mistake usually comes from a place of love.

When a young person says,

"I don't know what I want to do."

our natural instinct is to solve the problem.

We might suggest careers.

Recommend courses.

Offer advice.

Reassure them.

All of these come from a genuine desire to help.

But sometimes they come too early.

Before a young person is ready to choose a career, they first need to understand themselves.

Supporting Your Child Through Career Decisions

Your Role Isn't to Have All the Answers



Many parents worry that they should know exactly how to guide their child.

In reality, that's not your job.

Your role isn't to choose your child's future.

**Your role is to
create the space
where they can
understand
themselves well
enough to make
those decisions for
themselves.**

That may sound like a small difference.

In practice, it changes everything.

Supporting Your Child Through Career Decisions

A Different Kind of Conversation

Imagine your son or daughter says:

"I really enjoy Biology."

One conversation might go like this.

Parent *"Have you thought about medicine?"*

Student *"Not really."*

The conversation often goes no further.

Now imagine a different conversation.

Parent *"That's interesting. What is it about Biology that you enjoy?"*

Perhaps they say:

"I love understanding how the body works."

Or perhaps they say:

"I like understanding people."

Or maybe:

"I enjoy solving scientific problems."

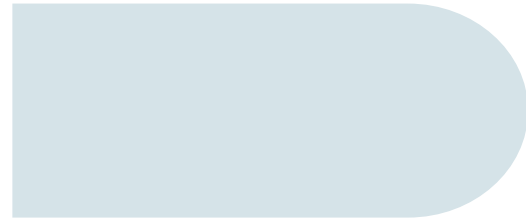
Suddenly, the conversation has changed.
You're no longer trying to find the answer.

You're helping your child understand
themselves.

And that understanding is often where good
career decisions begin.

Supporting Your Child Through Career Decisions

Better Questions Often Lead to Better Decisions



Many parents believe they need better answers.

In reality, they often need better questions. Instead of asking:

“What career do you want?”

You might ask:

“What kinds of activities do you enjoy most?”

Instead of asking:

“What course are you thinking about?”

You might ask:

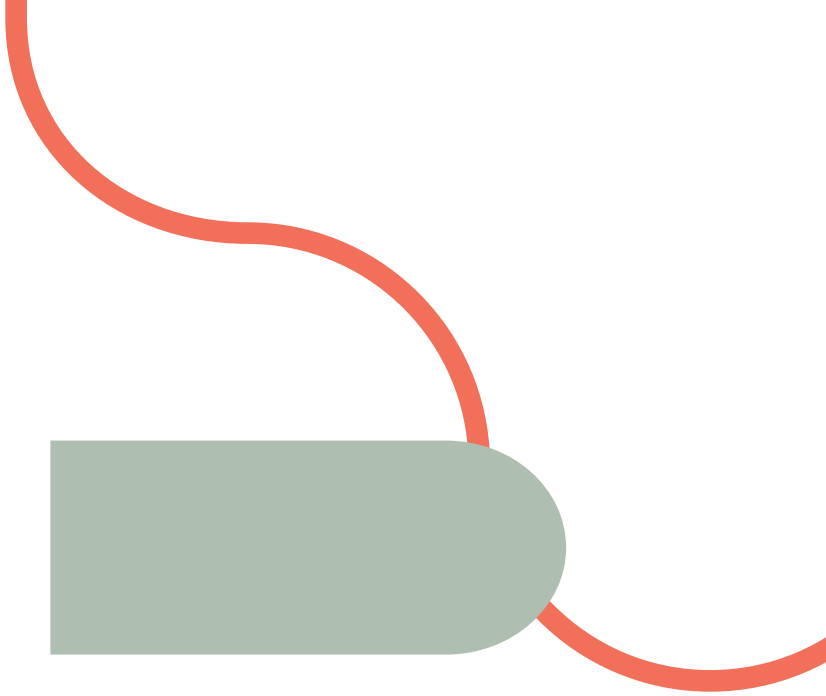
“What is it about that subject that interests you?”

Questions like these create space for reflection.

They help young people begin to recognise patterns in their interests, strengths and motivations.

Supporting Your Child Through Career Decisions

Why This Matters



One student may enjoy Biology because they love caring for people.

Another may enjoy it because they are fascinated by scientific research.

A third may enjoy solving practical problems.

All three enjoy the same subject.

Yet each may be suited to very different careers.

**That's why career
direction doesn't
begin with
choosing a course.**

**It begins with
understanding the
person behind the
subject choices.**

Supporting Your Child Through Career Decisions

You Don't Need to Solve the Problem

**One of the greatest
gifts you can give
your child is the
confidence to think
for themselves.**

That doesn't mean stepping back completely.

It means being curious.

Listening.

Encouraging reflection.

Helping them explore possibilities without feeling that every conversation has to end with a decision.

Career direction develops over time.

Very few young people suddenly wake up knowing exactly what they want to do.

Clarity usually grows through conversation, experience and a growing understanding of themselves.

Supporting Your Child Through Career Decisions

Where Career Guidance Can Help



Many parents think career guidance is mainly about helping students choose courses.

In reality, it starts much earlier.

Career guidance helps students understand themselves.

Together we explore:

- strengths
- interests
- motivations
- values
- the environments that suit them best

As students begin to understand themselves more clearly, career options often become much easier to recognise.

Course choices then become a natural next step rather than the starting point.

Supporting Your Child Through Career Decisions

One Final Thought

If you remember just one thing from this guide, let it be this.

Your child doesn't need you to have all the answers.

They need someone who will listen, stay curious and create the space where they can better understand themselves.

**Sometimes the
most valuable
thing a parent can
offer isn't another
answer.**

**It's another
thoughtful
question**