

Communication breakdown between parents and teenagers

John Coleman

Silent

Non-communicative

Grunting

Withdrawn

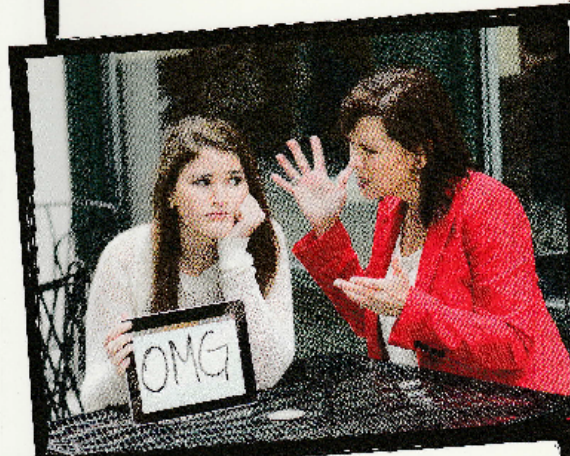
Non-verbal

Typical teenage behaviour

Write on post-it notes four examples of typical teenage behaviour.



"A godsend to families" – Professor Tanya Byron



WHY WON'T MY TEENAGER TALK TO ME?

DR JOHN COLEMAN

"Every parent should have a copy!" – Suzie Hayman
Agency Aunt for Woman Magazine

ROUTLEDGE
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Activity 1

Think of a time when communication between you and a young person broke down.

What happened, and can you say why the breakdown occurred?



Repair

How might this have
been repaired?



What is two-way communication?



Things that can happen

- Teenager only wants to talk at certain times;
- Teenager does not want to talk at all;

Teenager gets cross;

- Teenager feels that she/he is not being listened to;
- Teenager says “adult does not understand”
- Teenager wants to argue not listen.

Some useful ideas

- Information management;
- Communication as a skill;
- Filters;
- The problem of power.

Activity 2



Design a leaflet for parents to help them think about communication differently.

