



Being there to listen and build a relationship with a young carer can make a difference in their lives.

Frequent absence: Inconsistent attendance is often the result of a young carer's responsibility at home and the lack of respite options.

Completion of Homework: The amount of time young carers spend on domestic and other caring roles has a significant impact on their ability to focus on or complete their homework assignments.

Learning Difficulties: Work missed through absence and the inability to complete homework may lead to a vicious cycle of poorer literacy and numeracy levels that does not reflect the competence and potential of the young carer.

Concentration Difficulties: Young carers can appear to be in a world of their own when they are worrying about a relative or situation at home.

Apparent Maturity: The high levels of responsibility that young carers assume can give an inaccurate impression of their capacity to cope. This tendency to behave responsibly sometimes masks the developmental steps they have missed while carrying out their caring roles.

Financial Difficulties: Many young carers' families struggle financially, due to medical expenses and the family disintegration often associated with disability and illness. Families struggling to pay for essentials, may not be able to pay for text-books, stationary, uniforms or school excursions.

Bullying or Ostracising at School: When young carers are bullied or ostracised at school, there is a further negative impact to their ability to develop and learn within the education environment.

