

Getting on better cards

5. Better communication: for parents

Contempt / criticism

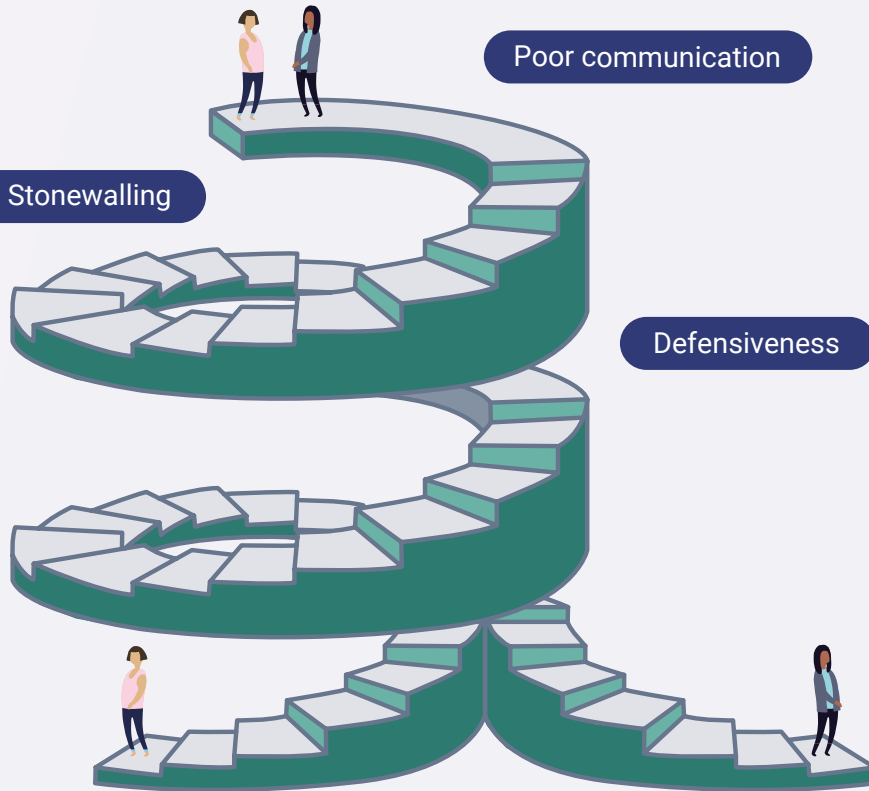
Poor communication

Stonewalling

Defensiveness

Lack of closeness

Refusal / avoidance



The downward spiral.

Some types of behaviour can increase the risk of relationship difficulties.

Flip the card over to learn more.

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	What poor communication looks like:	How you can protect against it:
Criticism	Criticism isn't the same as complaining. It's a direct attack on your partner. "You only think about yourself."	Try starting a sentence with "I..." and asking for what you need. "I was worried last night. I'd like it if you could text me when you're going to be late."
Contempt	Contempt is when we are deliberately mean. We might use name-calling, or sarcasm, or roll our eyes to show we're not interested.	Try to focus on what you love about each other. Look for opportunities to pay each other compliments and do things together that you both enjoy.
Defensiveness	Defensiveness is usually a response to criticism. We deflect blame onto the other person. "I've been busy. Why couldn't you do it?"	Try to see things from each other's point of view. Take responsibility and say sorry when you're in the wrong.
Stonewalling	Stonewalling is when we get so overwhelmed that we shut down completely, blanking our partner, or walking out of the room.	Try to be good to yourself. Take some time out to do something relaxing and enjoyable.