

The Right Words in Under 10 Minutes

Home + classroom safe (ages 5–16)



A simple, story-supported framework that helps parents, carers, and teachers explain organ and tissue health journeys — calmly, gently, and without medical jargon or pressure.



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Parent/Carer Communication Resource (Ages 5–16)

“Most families don’t need more information — they need the right words when a child asks a big question. Donate Buddies makes those conversations feel calm, safe, and possible.”

Ages 5–16

Emotionally safe
language

Under 10 Minutes

To use the framework

4-Step Framework

Safety → Simple words →
Calm answer → Close

Home + Classroom Safe

For parents, carers &
teachers

A calm way to talk about big health journeys (Ages 5–16)

For: Parents, carers, teachers, hospital support teams & community organisations

Solves: “I don’t have the right words to explain this to a child.”

✓ Ages 5–16 ✓ Under 2 minutes to start ✓ 4-step framework. ✓ Home + classroom safe

What this is / what this is not

✓ What this IS

- Simple, calm language for real conversations
- Age-appropriate words a child can understand
- A tool to open the door — not close it

✗ What this is NOT

- Medical advice or clinical information
- A script about surgical procedures
- Pressure to decide, act, sign up, register, or “choose donation”
- Scare-based or graphic explanations
- A replacement for your care team

The “Right Words” Framework (4 steps • under 2 minutes)

Step 1 — Open with a Safety Sentence

Choose what feels natural:

- “You’re safe, and it’s okay to ask big questions about sight and donation.”
- “We can talk about this gently — and we can stop anytime you want.”
- “I might not have every answer, but I’ll explain it calmly and simply.”

Step 2 — Name the body part (one sentence only)

Keep it body-positive and calm:

- “Your eyes help you see, and the cornea is the clear ‘window’ at the front.”
- “Sometimes donated corneas can help someone see better again.”
- “We can talk about cornea donation gently — without scary details.”

Step 3 — Explain what’s happening (without fear)

Pick one:

- “Sometimes doctors use a donated cornea to help repair someone’s sight.”
- “Trained teams handle cornea donation with respect and care.”
- “Captain Buddy, Iris the Eye, and Clara the Cornea explain this in calm, kid words.”

Step 4 — Keep it calm (Short vs Story)

- Short version: “That’s the main thing about corneas and sight. You can ask more anytime.”
- Story version: “Captain Buddy can explain eye and cornea donation gently — short or story?”
- Buddy version: “Iris the Eye and Clara the Cornea explain cornea donation in kid words.”

Quick Guide – DO / DON'T

✓ DO

- Start with safety – reassure before you explain
- Use body-positive, simple language
- Let the child lead with questions
- Pause and breathe – your calm is contagious

✗ DON'T

- Use medical jargon or clinical terms
- Make it about urgency, time pressure, or numbers
- Let adult worry lead the conversation
- Promise outcomes you can't guarantee

Ready-to-use scripts (Common hard questions)

“What does cornea donation mean?”

Ages 5–9:	“It means sharing a cornea to help someone see better. It can be a very kind gift.”
Ages 10–12:	“Cornea donation means a donated cornea can help repair someone's sight.”
Ages 13–16:	“Cornea donation means a donated cornea may help restore sight. It's handled with care.”

“What do the eyes and cornea do?”

Ages 5–9:	“Your eyes help you see, and the cornea is the clear ‘window’ at the front.”
Ages 10–12:	“Eyes help you see. The cornea is the clear front layer that helps focus light.”
Ages 13–16:	“The cornea is the clear front surface that helps focus light so vision works.”

“What is a cornea transplant?”

Ages 5–9:	“A transplant is when doctors put in a healthy cornea to help someone see better.”
Ages 10–12:	“A cornea transplant replaces a damaged cornea with a healthy donated one.”
Ages 13–16:	“A cornea transplant replaces a damaged cornea with donated tissue, with careful planning.”

“Where does donated cornea tissue come from?”

Ages 5–9:	“It can come from a person who has died, and their family said yes to helping others.”
Ages 10–12:	“It usually comes from a donor who has died, with family consent. Teams handle it respectfully.”
Ages 13–16:	“It usually comes from a deceased donor, with family consent, managed by trained teams.”

“Does cornea donation hurt the donor?”

Ages 5–9:	“No. Donation only happens in ways that don't hurt the person. Grown-ups handle details.”
Ages 10–12:	“No. Donation is done respectfully and carefully, and it doesn't hurt the donor.”
Ages 13–16:	“No. It's managed by trained teams with respect and care. We can keep details simple.”

“Will the donor's body still look normal?”

Ages 5–9:	“Yes. The person is treated with care and respect, and their body is looked after.”
Ages 10–12:	“Yes. Donation is done respectfully, and the person's body is treated with care.”
Ages 13–16:	“Yes. Donation is managed respectfully by trained teams, and the person's body is cared for.”

The One-Minute Close (end well)

Choose one:

- “I'm really proud of you for asking about eyes and cornea donation. We can talk again anytime.”
- “Right now, you're cared for and not alone. Let's do something normal together – what next?”
- “If you want, Iris the Eye, Clara the Cornea, and Captain Buddy can help us find the right words – no rush.”

For support teams – how organisations can use this

This mini-pack is designed to sit comfortably inside resources already offered by hospital support teams, school counsellors, and community health organisations. It requires no specialist training – simply print or share digitally as a gentle starting point for families, siblings, and classrooms navigating eye and cornea donation and transplant conversations. The language is written to complement, not replace, professional guidance. Disclaimer: Educational resource only – not medical advice. Always follow the guidance of your treating care team.