



I was worried about telling my best mate Charlie about dad. The lady at **Childline** said I didn't have to tell anyone if I didn't want to.

Maybe I could use a cover story...

"He's working on an oil rig."

"He's visiting relatives in Guatemala."

"He's a **secret agent**"

She said it was up to me **who** and **what** I wanted to tell.



In the end, I decided I'd just tell him **straight**.

Uh, Charlie? I...uh...er... I...em...

What's wrong with you? You been eatin' **stupid sandwiches** again?



I have to... I have to... uh...er...

Spit it out, **brainiac!** I'm **growin' old** over here!



I have to...to tell you something...

Is this about your dad bein' in jail, 'cos if it is **your** mum already told my mum, okay?



And that was that. I figured if my friends had a **problem** with my situation, then they weren't worth having as friends.

- Dirtbag
- Bonehead
- Moron

- Peabrain
- Cretin
- Ignoramus

Good ol' Charlie. **Always there** for me.