

HELPING PARENTS & CAREGIVERS DEVELOP CAREER AND POST- SECONDARY SKILLS

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Objectives



Participants will be able to:

1. Articulate 2 reasons why parents/caregivers are a critical component of K-12 career and college counseling
2. List three parent-friendly websites for career and post-secondary exploration with K-12 students
3. Describe 2 activities that families can find in their local communities to explore careers
4. List two ways counselors can help parents connect school to the world of work

FAMILIES ARE CRITICAL TO K-12 CAREER AND COLLEGE COUNSELING

- Ecosystems approach to school counseling
- Parents are a main source of influence on children's career and college expectations
- Parents are a main role model for their children
- The parent-child relationship fosters values that children base career and college decisions on
- Parents choose the opportunities they expose their children to (within access boundaries)



EXPOSURE AND ACCESS-FREE WEBSITES

- [girlswhocode.com](https://www.girlswhocode.com)
- [Code.org](https://www.code.org)
- Occupational Outlook Handbook
<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/>
- Onet <https://www.onetonline.org/>
- NASA: <https://www.nasa.gov/kidsclub/index.html>
- Zoom (PBS Kids)
<https://lpb.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/zoom/>

FREE WEBSITES

- Time for Kids (includes financial literacy articles)
<https://www.timeforkids.com/>
- <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/history/forkids/index.shtml>
- The old farmer's almanac for kids
<https://www.almanac.com/kids>
- DESIGN!
<http://www.kidsthinkdesign.org/fashion/think.html>

FAMILY FUN- AROUND THE COUNTRY

- **Maker Faires:** A convention of DIY enthusiasts started by Make magazine including robotics, 3D printing, computers, arts and crafts, and hacker culture
- **Touch a Truck:** **Touch a Truck** is an annual event that provides children the opportunity to interact with the wide variety of businesses and vehicles that protect, serve, and build in their local area
- Parks and Recreation camps and programs
- 4H programs

FAMILY CAREER ACCESS

- Ask parents to consider ways to connect with their children's interests: local libraries and parks departments
- Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges often have cooperative and extension programs such as Ag Magic, 4H and more
- Join local interest groups: Geology, Astronomy, Gem and Mineral Society, Archaeological Society, Historical Society
- Lowe's Kids DIY Workshops /Home Depot
- kidsgardening.org



TEACH PARENTS TO BECOME SKILLFUL INTERVIEWERS...

At the library, restaurants, bakery, grocery store, getting an oil change...and everywhere...ASK:

- What do you like most about your work?
- What subject(s) did you like in school?
- What is the hardest thing about your work?
- If someone was interested in your type of work, what skills might they need to develop?
- What is something that you have to do everyday that might surprise people?
- What is something you didn't do well at first that you are really good at now?

(Curry, 2017)



GIVE STUDENTS CAREER TITLES AND ASK PARENTS TO DO THE SAME

- In classrooms and during activities, have students try on career titles (i.e., “Today you are all going to be authors” “This afternoon you will be a chemist”)
- When students are at home, parents can do the same (e.g., a child helping his parent cook is trying on the career of chef)
- After completing tasks, it’s important to ask how the student liked their time in the career (how did you like being a gardener?)
- Do you enjoy being a painter? What do you like about it?



AMERICAN
SCHOOL
COUNSELOR
ASSOCIATION



Would you like to be a paleontologist today?



How did you enjoy working as a baker?

FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS...

Encourage their parents to focus on careers, not just college



BY MIDDLE SCHOOL...

We want parents to understand the connection between career and post-secondary choices

The 5 rules of the college payoff:

- *Rule Number One* is that education level matters, and generally more education is better.
- *Rule Number Two* is education level matters, but program of study and majors matter even more.
- *Rule Number Three* is that although field of study is important, it does not control one's financial destiny-there is great variation within majors.
- *Rule Number Four* is that less education can be worth more.
- *Rule Number Five* is that humanities and liberal arts majors never catch up with the highest earning majors.

(Carnevale & Cheah 2018)

IN MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

- Encourage parents to help their children to discover their innate talents, skills and interests, rather than choose or dictate a career for them
- Parents can help their children develop knowledge of the world of work by talking about their own careers and encouraging family members to do the same
- Choose high school courses that align to future career interests
- Choose rigor based on career interests

CAREER CONCERNS PARENTS SHOULD WATCH FOR/AVOID

- Procrastination
- Temper unrealistic expectations don't be a dream squasher
- Carrying too many higher -level subjects against teachers' advice
- Lack of motivation to do homework or extracurricular activities
- Interference from social activities or a weekend job which is funding their social life
- Selecting a career pathway because it is financially lucrative

MORE WEBSITES-COLLEGE

- College Navigator (NCES)
<https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>
- College Scoreboard
<https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/>
- Big Future-College Board (Road Trip Nation)-
Link Careers & Majors, search for scholarships,
financial aid, determine college costs
<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>

REFERENCES

Carnevale, A. P. & Cheah, B. (2018). *Five rules of the college and career game*. Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce.

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