



REAL TALK ABOUT REAL JOBS

Dear Families and Community Members,

How did you learn about career options when you were growing up? Maybe you attended a Take Your Child to Work Day or helped your family at work. Maybe you had career fairs at school. Times have changed, and so have career opportunities. But one thing hasn't changed: Getting first-hand information about a job can bring opportunities into greater focus. It helps kids tell the difference between something that just sounds cool and something that could be a great match for them. Get kids thinking about real job opportunities using the content below.

TALK ABOUT IT

Have a talk about the idea versus the reality of something. This talk doesn't have to be about jobs or careers, but if you do have a story that applies, share it. Then use the following prompts with your child:

- Describe a time you expected something to go well but that turned out to be disappointing or different than expected.
- Describe the opposite, a time when you had low expectations of something but were happily surprised.

This conversation is more about managing your expectations than about any specific topic. After sharing some stories, make a connection to career exploration and how a certain career path may turn out very differently than expected.

TRY IT OUT

Give kids a chance to get some first-hand knowledge or experience of a career field. You can do this by connecting them with family or community members in different careers. Work with kids to come up with some questions they might want to ask about the job. See if they're able to shadow a worker for a day. This could create opportunities for volunteering or even mentorship. It's never too early to start making connections and getting experience.

If this is not an option, kids can use the [Ask Me Anything section](#) of Your [🔥]Job to ask questions to someone in an industry of interest.

Your young person might connect with a person or a job right away. Other explorations might fall flat. That's okay. The process can be full of both discoveries and dead ends. Getting comfortable with that will serve kids well, now and in the future.