

Resources to inspire the next generation.

Dear Families,

We've probably all heard our kids talk about what they want to be when they grow up. Those options likely morph from something wondrous and imaginative, like a unicorn doctor (my 4-year-old niece's current interest), to more practical and realistic, like a teacher or firefighter. While studies show that teens will often name the same 10 career interests, we know there are infinite career options out there, which will continue to grow and evolve as we kids do. Your🔥Job was built to spark curiosity the next generation's curiosity and ignite its sense of what's possible. Enjoy the journey!

Sparking Conversation

It's never too soon to start talking about career exploration. Curious about where to start? Don't worry, we have you covered! We recommend the article "[Go Your Own Way](#)," by Terina Allen. Allen is a former high school teacher who now writes about career development. She wrote an article for us that can be used not only to start conversations, but also to spark curiosity.

Allen's piece is frank about her personal journey and her fears related to success. She also discusses the fact that success cannot be measured without factoring in happiness. "It starts with defining happiness and career success for yourself and then exploring different traditional and nontraditional career options."

As Allen suggests, the natural next step is to have kids jump to the website and complete the Skills Explorer. This is a quiz that helps kids learn about their strengths and trace those strengths to career options. She says, "After considering your skills and interests, dive into learning about different career options. And even if you think you've made a decision, remember: At any time, you can change your mind and choose something different."

Table Talk

Use the following questions to spark conversations about "Go Your Own Way."

- Allen mentions moments when she felt afraid. What are some of your fears when it comes to careers and the exploration process?
- At the close of the article, there's a list of tips (see below). Which of these did or didn't resonate?
 - Pay attention.
 - Define success.
 - Consider all aspects.
 - Look inward.
 - Be flexible.

More Conversation Starters from Your Job

[On Inspiration](#) video

- Inspiration can come from anywhere. An illustrator, a writer, a charity founder, and others talk about what inspires them. What inspires you?

"[Believe in Yourself](#)" article

- A great career starts with you. It starts with your belief in your potential.

"[Careers of the Future](#)" article

- Learn about the idea of preparing for jobs that might not yet exist. Can you imagine a career that might exist a few years, or a few decades, down the road?

Cool career spotlight: [Becoming a Sneaker Designer](#) video

- Sneaker designer Cheresse Thornhill-Goldson mentors other women of color as they pursue a career in the athletic footwear industry. Who do you look up to?

Cool career spotlight: [Micah Johnson: From Athlete to Artist](#) video

- Former professional baseball player Micah Johnson says he “traded in his baseball bat for a paintbrush.”

Cool career spotlight: [5 Questions for a Game Developer](#) video

- Video-game developer and entrepreneur Mitu Khandaker answers five questions about her cool career.

Resource Roundup

The Careers Handbook: The Ultimate Guide to Planning Your Future

- In this book, kids will learn about salaries, working hours, training, and career paths for more than 400 jobs.

Who Was? book series

- The Who Was? series tells the incredible stories of trailblazers, legends, innovators, and creators.

World's Coolest Jobs: Discover 40 Awesome Careers!

- This book is a great resource for kids who want to learn about a variety of careers, from panda nanny to waterslide tester.

What Do You Do with an Idea? by Kobi Yamada

- While not explicitly tied to careers, this book explores how one small idea can become something amazing. It teaches the power of creativity and the importance of perseverance.



Learning About Our Strengths

The Skills Explorer might have been built for kids, but adults can use it too!

Use the Skills Explorer as a family and compare results.

You can discuss similarities and differences. Start with comparing your top traits. Might some of your kids' strengths originate with other members of the family? Do any surprises come up when comparing? The Skills Explorer results include a set of superpowers for each of the three top traits. When we learn to identify our strengths, we can use them to build confidence in ourselves.

Questions to discuss using the Skills Explorer results:

- What do your results say about you?
- What are the key traits used to describe these skills?
- Do these feel representative of what you think of as your strengths? Why or why not?
- Take a look at your possible career paths. Which ones interest you the most?
- Which celebrity or historical figure on your results pages would you like to interview?

Making Connections

Did you know kids will have a customized newsfeed once they complete their Skills Explorer? They'll see a curated feed with articles and videos related to their results. They'll read about many different career opportunities across the five industries.

Use the following questions for further engagement after kids have read an article or watched a video:

- What job did you learn about?
- What questions do you have about this job?
- What strengths do you have that could help you be successful in this job?
- What seems challenging about this job?
- Can you think of other jobs that are related?
- Do you know someone who has this job?

Curiosity Through Interviews

Interview time! Have kids ask an adult about what led them down their career path.

Use the following resources to help kids learn interviewing skills.

["José Andrés, Space Chef," article at Your Job](#)

- Read this article to check out how an interview is conducted. It features an interview of chef José Andrés by a TIME for Kids Kid Reporter. Study the questions and responses.

[Sian-Pierre Regis, Storyteller video at Your Job](#)

- Meet celebrity interviewer and documentary filmmaker Sian-Pierre Regis. He finds and shares true stories with the world.

Work on identifying who your child would like to interview. Then discuss what questions might they wish to ask. Examples might include:

- What jobs did you dream of when you were a kid
- What helped you choose your job?
- Did you have jobs before your current one?
- What are your favorite parts of your job?
- What are your least favorite?
- What traits make you good at your job?
- What do you wish you'd known as a young person when you were thinking about jobs?