

Which Hat Fits You? Career Exploration with Elementary School Students

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Learning Objectives

After attending this session, participants should be able to:

- Brainstorm how to implement developmentally appropriate lessons on career exploration
- Outline ways to make career exploration a school-wide initiative
- Explain the benefits of career exploration to various stakeholders

Icebreaker- Who Wears This Hat?



Why Career Exploration in Elementary School?




- “Plant the Seed”
- Creative ways to do interdisciplinary work (ex: teaching about fractions while baking a recipe)
- Capture excitement and enhance curiosity
- Broaden career vocabulary beyond what is easily seen (firefighters) or known at home/school
- Connect students to the outside world

Classroom Guidance Lessons (K-2)

- Career Toolbox
 - Put a variety of “tools” in the box and ask students who might use these for their jobs
- Career Matching Game
 - On cardstock, have pictures and descriptions of various careers
- Which Hat Fits You?
 - Bring in a variety of hats and have kids brainstorm what types of people might wear those hats

Example: Career Matching Game

Note: These are from a Spanish Immersion school I worked at!

<p>El Actor o La Actriz</p> 	<p>A person who plays a character in movies, films or in plays.</p>
<p>El Bailarín</p> 	<p>A person who dances professionally. For example: they can dance for companies, on tour for music acts or for TV and movies.</p>
<p>El Diseñador de Moda</p> 	<p>A person who designs clothing.</p>

Classroom Guidance Lessons (3-5)

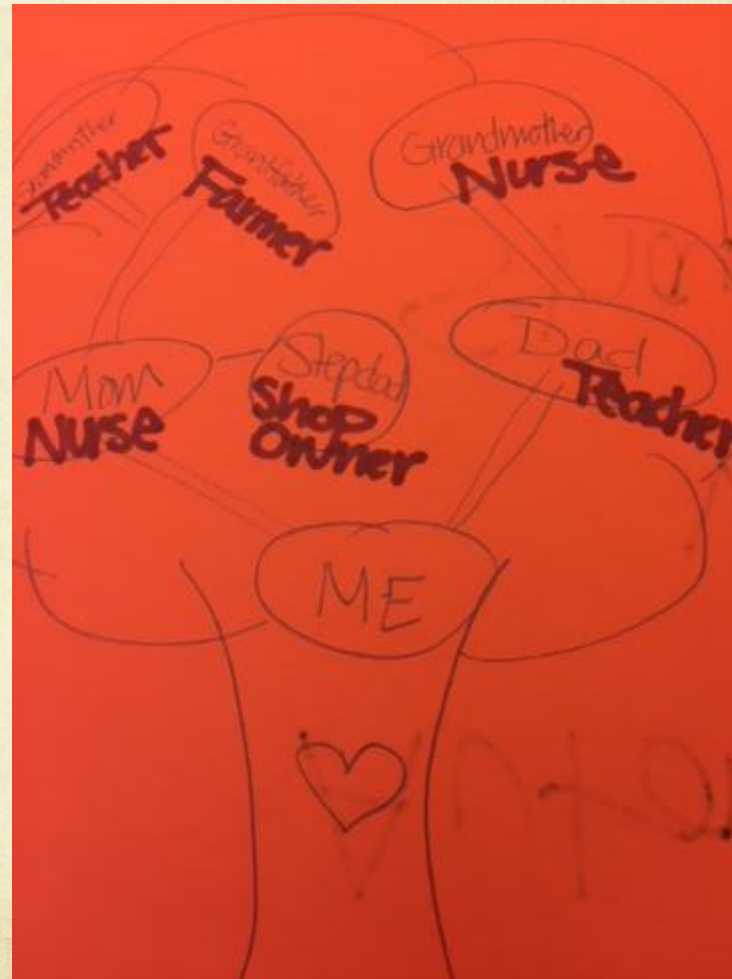
- Goal setting
 - Introduce the idea of S.M.A.R.T. goals
- Family Career Tree
- Reality Store
- A Day in the Life
 - Have students explore videos on: www.careeronestop.org
<https://www.careeronestop.org/videos/careeronestop-videos.aspx?videocode=27402100>

Example: Reality Store

- Students are given a Career Card that lists job description, education and training, and salary.
- They are given “fake money” based on the salary and visit various stations such as taxes, insurance, housing, food, transportation, clothing, and entertainment.
- Students learn how to make decisions based upon a budget.

Source: Mariani, M. et al. (2016). Operation Occupation: A College and Career Readiness Intervention for Elementary Students. *Professional School Counseling*. Jan. 2016, Vol. 20, No. 1 (2016-17), pp. 65-76.

Example: Family Career Tree



Websites to Help Students Explore

- <https://www.mynextmove.org/>
- <http://www.educationplanner.org/students/career-planning/find-careers/career-clusters.shtml>
- <http://www.educationplanner.org/students/career-planning/find-careers/careers.shtml>
- <https://www.careeronestop.org/Videos/CareerVideos/career-videos.aspx?&frd=true>
- <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/explore-careers>

Bulletin Boards: Marketing within your Community



Engaging Stakeholders

- Utilize already-established partners such as Pencil Partners
- Send home a monthly newsletter from the Counseling Center that has a “Career Highlight” feature
- Ask students to write notes to various neighborhood organizations to solicit speakers (this actually works! Everyone loves a hand-written note)

Great Books

- “Work Song” by Gary Paulsen
- “Everybody Works” by Shelley Rotner
- “When I Grow Up” by Al Yankovic
- “I Can Be Anything!” by Jerry Spinelli
- “The World is my Playground. What should I Be?” by Shandra Hall

References

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- Stone, C. B. & Dahir, C.A. (2016). *The transformed school counselor*. 3rd ed. Boston, MA: Cengage learning.
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Questions??

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