



PREPARING CHILDREN FOR WORK

Equipping children for a happy and successful professional life, even in jobs that don't yet exist.

HELP THEM KNOW WHO THEY ARE

While being intellectually capable is certainly a desirable and helpful quality, the first component in making wise career choices is to have a sound understanding of yourself, your strengths and weaknesses, and your predominant personality characteristics. The earlier in life children learn to understand and value themselves, the better equipped they will be to become healthy participants in life.



INCREASE THEIR EMPLOYABILITY

Being able to respond appropriately to life and future professional challenges lends itself brilliantly to being more employable. Obstacles are part of the path. Being able to work around and through them is key, not only to their happiness but success in any career. A large part of being able to cope with challenges is having self-control—being able to manage our behaviours and emotions to reach a longer-term goal.

A THIRST FOR KNOWLEDGE

Never stop learning. Feed that childlike curiosity that can often get lost in a formal school system. Encourage your children to ask questions, to ignore the feeling of appearing stupid or smart, and commit to learning something new all the time. Encourage intergenerational mentoring or interaction. It's that mentoring and looking up to those we admire that can also encourage us to never stop learning.

UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD OF WORK

While your children are young, help them try new things, get away from the screen, go camping, enjoy local plays and theatricals, visit museums, learn about other cultures and help out at a local charity. These are all excellent ways of expanding a young person's mind and experiences. It broadens their perspective and creates valuable awareness of their interests. Being aware of their interests will lead naturally to the next step of exploring their passions within the world of work. When your children are in their mid-teens, don't be afraid to get in touch with employers in the fields that interest your child and see if you can arrange some unpaid "work experience".



THE BOTTOM LINE

THIS IS YOUR CHILD'S JOURNEY, NOT YOURS

Your role as a parent is to facilitate, support and champion them on this journey. Have plenty of discussions over the years as they grow and experience life. Challenge them to think about what they want to get out of life and what they want to give back. What difference do they want to make for others and future generations?



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