

parents as career partners

You helped them learn to walk and talk...

Now help them explore the world of
education, work and training



A parent's and caregiver's guide to career advice

WORKSHOP NOTES

1. What is a 'career'?

2. My/our son/daughter/ward is most influenced by the following people:

3. What factors are likely to influence my/our son's/daughter's/ward's career decision making?

4. Two areas of interest that I/we can explore occupations in are:

5. Useful courses of study in the areas of interest for my/our son/daughter/ward are:

6. Some changes we might expect in the world of work in the next 20 years are:

7. Other useful notes:

WHY IS THIS WORKSHOP IMPORTANT?

This workshop provides some ideas for helping your son/daughter/ward succeed in this changing world.

More than two-thirds of the jobs in the future will require education beyond secondary school.

Your child will need to adapt to change, use technology, work as a member of a team, communicate and solve problems. Those who make the most of their education (secondary and tertiary) will have the widest options. Your child can expect a lifetime of learning. According to recent studies, young people may have as many as 12-25 jobs in up to five industry sectors during their working lives.

Below is a simple model of career development. The focus for students at this stage (years 8-10) is on **awareness** (of what is possible) and **exploration** (of skills).



CAREER DECISION MAKING – TIPS FOR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS

GENERAL TIPS

Believe in your child and take a keen interest in their activities in and out of school.

Encourage your child to keep their options open. Remember, some subjects such as maths and science open up wider opportunities. Encourage your child not to make premature choices.

Try not to impose your feelings on your child, but help them to gather new information on the world of education, training and work.

Encourage your child to approach school like a job, and they will learn the basic skills that employers value: punctuality, commitment, expected codes of behaviour and dress.

SELF AWARENESS TIPS

Ask your child what they LEARNED in school today. Explore what they enjoyed and why, as well as what they didn't enjoy and why.

Support your child when they want to try new things and expand their horizons.

Pursue new interests together to reinforce the importance of learning at all ages.

Help your child express their gifts and talents.

Reinforce to your child that they are special and they can contribute something unique.

Assist your child to investigate jobs that relate to their interests.

Discuss the skills they use at school, at work, at home, in the community and on the sporting field.

Praise positive behaviours, attitudes and achievements big and small.

OPPORTUNITY AWARENESS TIPS

Encourage your child to talk with friends, relatives and neighbours about their jobs.

Some questions might be:

How did you become interested in your occupation?

What qualifications do you need for your position?

What is expected of you by your employer?

What skills and personal qualities are needed?

What do you enjoy/not enjoy about your position?

How would you describe a typical day?

How did you decide that this is what you wanted to do?

Check out the wide range of educational paths. Educational opportunities and pathways are numerous and varied.

Make use of career information in the school, on the Internet and from agencies such as the Career Development Centre (formerly Training Information Centre) and Community Development Employment Projects ("CDEP").

Take advantage of the career related learning your child's school offers.



STEPS FOR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS

I/we can:

- Try to get feedback about our child's performance, strengths and/or abilities from school staff and others eg. coaches, mentors, employers, family members etc
- Encourage our child to find a balance between study, work, rest and play
- Try and provide an appropriate study space
- Visit or telephone the Career Development Centre (formerly Training Information Centre) and the Career Information Centre
- Contact our local Employment Directions Network Career Centre
- Log on to the GetAccess and MyFuture websites for career and training information
- Be aware of and try to demonstrate good time management and organisation
- Encourage our child to approach school like a job eg. punctuality, commitment, expected codes of behaviour and dress
- Encourage our child to participate in voluntary, casual or part time work so skills and work practices can be learned
- Encourage our child to keep their options open – the broader the range they consider the more likely they are to find one that works for them
- Support our child's interest and skill development
- Go to Career Expos and Open Days
- Visit training or education institutions and workplaces where convenient
- Discuss career options with our child and be sure to listen to what he or she has to say.

CAREER INFORMATION SOURCES

- Parent Information Nights at school
 - Networking ~ both personal and community
 - Publications ~ e.g. newspapers and journals
 - Work Exploration
 - Careers Advisers in schools
 - Students' part time jobs
 - Training Providers
 - Individual TAFE colleges
 - Individual Universities
 - Websites
- Get Access** <http://www.getaccess.wa.gov.au>
- My Future** <http://www.myfuture.edu.au>
- Job Guide** <http://www.jobguide.dest.gov.au>
- Future Finder** <http://www.futurefinder.com.au>
- Career Information** <http://www.dest.gov.au>
- Aboriginal School Based Traineeships**
<http://www.apprenticeship.training.wa.gov.au/asbt>
- Youth Portal-Programmes & Services: Careers**
www.youth.gov.au/programmes/careers.htm
- **The Career Development Centre** (formerly Training Information Centre) and the **Career Information Centre** are now co-located on the second floor of 166 Murray Street in Perth, (located in the same building as Woolworths and Myer).
- Career Info Centre:**
phone: 9464 1305,
email: cic.per@centrelink.gov.au
- Career Development Centre** (formerly Training Information Centre):
phone: 1800 999 167,
email: training.information@det.wa.edu.au
 - **Employment Directions Network:**
phone 13 64 64

Important: Please note that the contents of this publication are based on information and advice received up until the date of compilation in October 2005.

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