

## **The Elementary School Years Career & College Planning Checklist**

### **Grades PK-5**

Career development in the elementary grades is about awareness and exploration. As a parent you can play an influential role in the shaping your son or daughter's career planning and preparation. Help your child recognize the world of work, develop an appreciation of all work, and to obtain basic knowledge about different careers such as the tasks involved and environment conducted.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Talk about the many different occupations you see people perform in your community. Use concrete examples and explain what tasks each job entails.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ No matter the occupation, show respect for all types of work, so that your child understands that all people have dignity and value.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Play career games with your child.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Read books and stories with your child and discuss the work of the characters.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Ask your child to share his or her interests with you.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Reinforce the positive traits and talents of your child.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Share with your child that things he or she likes to do can be translated into occupations with the same types of tasks.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Promote your child to acquire skills that relate to his or her interests.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Do not limit possibilities in occupations for your child.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Teach responsibility to your child by assigning chores.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ Teach your child about money management by giving an allowance.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ Encourage your child to work for things he or she wants and to save money to buy them.
13. \_\_\_\_\_ Establish a savings plan for your child's post-secondary education.
14. \_\_\_\_\_ Check out these websites with your kids  
Ben's Guide <http://bensguide.gpo.gov/>  
Who Builds Big? <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/buildingbig/profile/index.html>  
EEK! Get a Job! <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/ce/eeek/job/index.htm>  
Career Voyages <http://www.careervoyages.gov/students-elementary.cfm>  
Jobs for Kids Who Like...: [www.bls.gov/k12/index.htm](http://www.bls.gov/k12/index.htm)
15. \_\_\_\_\_ Set a family expectation that your children are to graduate from high school and college, and talk to your children about it.