

Six Years to Prepare

Don't let your child wait until 11th or 12th grade to think about the future. Encourage your child to use these tips starting in 7th grade.

7th Grade

- Engage in lots of different activities to discover your talents and interests.
- Volunteer in different community agencies to broaden your understanding of occupations.

8th Grade

- Initiate talks with parents and school guidance counselors about your interests.
- Take an elective course you think you might like—now is the time to explore.

9th Grade

- Choose courses carefully.
- Investigate scholarships for post-graduate learning opportunities. Find out the requirements and plan them into your schedule.
- Pick extracurricular activities that are most stimulating.

10th Grade

- Start gathering catalogs from schools and/or organizations you're interested in.
- Attend college, technical school, and other fairs.
- Keep working hard in school.

11th Grade

- Begin narrowing the choices for after graduation.
- Take the PSAT.
- Apply for scholarships.
- Sign up for the ACT and SAT if you're planning to attend college.
- If possible, visit schools or organizations you're interested in.
- Find out application deadlines.

12th Grade

- Continue doing well in school.
- Apply for scholarships.
- Fill out applications.
- Take the ACT and SAT if you're planning to attend college.
- Visit schools or organizations where you've been accepted.
- Complete financial aid forms immediately.

Quick Tip:
Let your child dream, explore,
and change her or his mind
about the future.

Good News

In 1980, 7 out of 10 high school sophomores aspired to get education beyond high school. Today 9 out of 10 do, reports the National Center for Education Statistics.

More Stuff You Can Use

Matching Yourself With the World of Work. This 10-page pamphlet lists the requirements, prospects, and earnings for 200 occupations. (Available for \$1.00 from R. Woods, Consumer Information Center—5C, Box 100, Pueblo, CO 81002.)

Final Word

“The best thing about the future is that it comes only one day at a time.”

—Abraham Lincoln, former U.S. president

This newsletter and other asset resources are produced by Search Institute, 700 South Third Street, Suite 210, Minneapolis, MN 55415; 1-800-888-7828. Copyright © 1996, by Search Institute. Major support for Search Institute's *Healthy Communities* • *Healthy Youth* initiative is provided by Lutheran Brotherhood, a fraternal benefit society that specializes in insurance, annuities, and investment products.