
WITHIN REACH

College- and Career Preparation Timetables

If you're unsure when to start talking about career exploration with your children, follow the suggested timetables below.

Key events or milestones are bolded—they require your special attention. Also, “post-secondary” refers to anything after high school.

| Elementary School (Grades K-5) |

The Goal is to Increase Self-Confidence and Career Awareness.

- Discuss the many different occupations that exist. Use concrete examples and explain what tasks each job entails.
- Reinforce your children's positive attributes.
- Do not limit possibilities in occupations.
- Show respect for everyone, regardless of occupation, so that your children understand that all occupations and people have dignity and value.
- Talk about the work people do when out and about in the community. Discuss the differences between job tasks.
- Play career games. Watch career videos. Read books and stories about people at work.
- Let your children know that things they enjoy doing can be translated into occupations with the same type of tasks.
- Assign chores to teach your children responsibility.
- Give an allowance to teach your child about money management.
- Check out the Kids' page on the Bureau of Labor Statistics website at bls.gov/k12/index.htm or other sources of online career information.
- Consult a financial planner to discuss saving for your child's postsecondary education. Ask about tax-advantaged savings accounts and pre-paid tuition programs.