Helping your child with career decisions

“As a parent, you play an important role in helping your child make educational choices and career decisions. This role begins when your child is young as they watch you and others around them take part in working life.

As they grow older, you can play an even greater part in guiding their career development and fostering their optimism, enthusiasm, energy and curiosity.”


There are a number of things you can do to help your children with their career exploration and decision-making.

Understand that:

- Today’s world of work is rapidly changing and your children might have to make many career decisions in the future
- Career decision-making is not magic; it is a process during which your children need to explore many options
- Your children must be actively involved in the career decision-making process; you can’t do it for them
- The career counsellor’s role is to work with your children to help them explore options and make decisions; not tell them what to do.

Make opportunities to:

- Have discussions with your children about what they might like to do in the future
- Talk with your children about your job (take them to work with you) and your career decision-making experiences
- Listen to your children’s career dreams even if you think they are unrealistic (career exploration can start with a dream)
- Help your children gain awareness of their strengths, interests, values (what they think is important) and the things that might influence their career decisions (e.g. your opinion, the opinions held by their friends, the length of training to get into the job, the income from the job, job prospects, the media, etc.)

Encourage your children to:

- Be curious about jobs and the world of work when they are young; don’t wait until they have to start making career decisions
- Explore a range of jobs
- Ask people from their social network (relatives, your friends, parents of their friends, neighbours, etc.) about their jobs
- Be aware of the jobs they encounter in their daily lives
- Use the resources below to read about jobs
- Try out jobs in which they are interested through work experience, work observation, volunteering, part-time work, etc.
Learn about the:
- Options available to young people at the end of secondary schooling
- Tertiary entry processes in Queensland

Useful websites

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<td>myfuture <a href="http://www.myfuture.edu.au/">http://www.myfuture.edu.au/</a> (click on ‘Assist your child’)</td>
<td>This is Australia’s career information service. The ‘Assist your child’ page has links to a range of information including job descriptions, course and labour market information, job-seeking skills and ideas for parents.</td>
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<td>Student Connect <a href="https://studentconnect.qcaq.qld.edu.au/">https://studentconnect.qcaq.qld.edu.au/</a></td>
<td>Links to information on future options, Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority Learning Accounts.</td>
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