

career connections

Research has shown that parents and family members have the greatest influence on a child's career decisions. Strengthen your influence by building Career Connections at home using these examples.

GRADES K-5*

Begin to have short talks at home about work and jobs that include why doing well at school is important. Encourage your child to think about what he or she might want to do in the future.

Share books together that show different jobs. Talk about examples in your family and community that connect to the story.

Consider taking your child to work and share with them the jobs at your workplace and the types of tasks you do on a regular basis. If this isn't an idea that works for you, consider a relative or family friend who may be able to take your child to work.

Participate in a career fair or present to your child's class by sharing what you do for work, what things you were interested in as a child and helpful tips for anyone interested in your career field.

GRADES 6-8

Begin to talk with your child about strengths and interests. Consider asking "what are the things at school you enjoy most?" and "what things do you feel you do really well?" Share your own experiences and strengths.

Share websites or books with your child that focus on career interests or personal strengths. Talk about things you enjoy doing and things you're good at—either at work or in your personal life.

Visit the OhioMeansJobs K-12 website with your child to discover career interests and explore various [pathways](#). Begin discussing options for the future such as high school programs and career goals.

Begin to talk about scheduling for high school. Review graduation requirements and explore what classes your child's school offers.

GRADES 9-12

Begin to talk about [career pathways](#) and explore possible elective classes that your child's school offers. Review your high school's graduation requirements and the classes your student is interested in.

Revisit OhioMeansJobs K-12 and review the education and training requirements for careers of interest. This information will be helpful when choosing training programs and college majors.

Talk with your child's counselor and teachers about:

- Career exploration opportunities such as job shadowing, volunteering, mentoring, youth-apprenticeships, co-ops and internships;
- Earning college credit in high school through simultaneous credit, credit flexibility, college credit plus, career tech programs and advanced placement; and
- Financial aid options such as grants, scholarships and loans and completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Consider keeping a calendar or timeline with important dates and deadlines, such as application due dates and scholarship deadlines.



*Examples for K-5 also are helpful across Grade 6-8 and 9-12.

