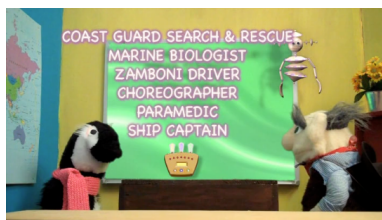


Career Day or Week

OBJECTIVE: To understand and identify one's values, interests, and talents and how they affect personal and career development (C:C.2.1; PS:A1.2).¹



MATERIALS: Vary according to selected activity. Clip from the “Career Day” episode and “The Career Song” from Buckalope Elementary.

PROCEDURE:

1. Choose a multimedia clip to introduce the topic of careers. For example, play a clip from Buckalope Elementary’s “Career Day” episode where Sigmund is asking students what their talents and interests are and providing career suggestions. *Discuss how a career is related to skills, interests, talents, and values, and should be something that an individual enjoys doing.*
2. *Discuss the following: What is a “value”? What are some of your values? What are some of your interests or things that you enjoy doing? What are some of your talents or skills?*
3. Select one or more of the following activities:

ACTIVITIES:

1. Interview an adult about their career. Younger students can talk to a parent or grandparent about their job and draw a picture of what they do, while older students can create their own questions (or be provided with some sample questions) and video tape the interview to share with the class.
2. Create a career collage. Individually or with adult assistance, students will clip pictures from newspapers/magazines or download images from the internet to create a digital or poster “career collage” to portray a particular occupation of interest or various careers in a field. Students can then present their project to the class explaining the significance of their images and selection.
3. Read and write a story. Read “Jobs People Do” by Christopher Maynard and discuss. Have students choose a career that interests them to write “a day in the life of...” story where they write from the perspective of an individual working in the selected career. Younger students can verbally dictate their story to an adult to transcribe then students can add illustrations to create their very own book.
4. Role-playing presentation. Just like what the characters of Buckalope Elementary did for their career day presentation, students can dress up as a career professional and give a classroom presentation about who they are and what their job entails.
5. Real-life documentaries. Ask for parent volunteers to take their child to work and create a documentary about the day.

WRAP UP: By expanding knowledge and experience people develop self-awareness and create career goals for themselves. *Discuss how school (and college) will help with this. Discuss with students that their interests (and career interests) may change frequently throughout their life. Stress that it is ok to try something or select a career interest then decide it is not right for you.*

BIG PICTURE: While this can change, it is a powerful source of motivation and self-esteem and should be recognized. Display photos of students with their future occupation or career goal listed on a bulletin board or main hallway to inspire others and continue to build self-esteem. Put a sticker or symbol by each career that requires a college degree.

¹ American School Counselor Association (ASCA) National Standards for Student Competencies (2005).
<http://ascamodel.timberlakepublishing.com/files/NationalStandards.pdf>

