

## Five Ways for Families to Connect Youth to Careers: Elementary

### 1. Informal Talks and Conversation

As you're out in your neighborhood or community with your child, point out people doing work. Repeatedly talking about jobs will help your child understand that adults each have special roles and responsibilities. The older your child, the more complex conversations and examples can be, including:

- Mechanics help fix and make sure machines, cars, and equipment work properly.
- Zookeepers feed and take care of animals at the zoo.



### 2. Ask Questions

The next time you're stuck in traffic, sitting in a waiting room, or waiting for your meal at a restaurant, pose questions that will inspire your child to think more deeply about the workers in that environment. Here are a few examples:

- What do you think the teller does with my money when I bring it to the bank?
- How do you think the vegetables get from the farmer's field to the grocery store?
- What do you think teachers do after the kids go home from school?



### 3. Read Books

Visit the library and read books together that show different types of careers. Talk about examples in your family and community that connect to the story. For older youth, share books that focus on career interests and personal strengths. Talk about things you enjoy doing and things that you are good at – either at work or in your personal life.

### 4. STEM Activities at Home

Parents and caregivers everywhere are looking for ways to help their children succeed in school and prepare for the future. Working on STEM activities as a family is a fun way to build skills that will be important to your child no matter what path they take in life!

- [Engineering is Everywhere for Families](#) - You can work with the children in your life (especially those aged 4–11) to design your own solutions to our challenges. Also includes a [parent letter](#) in English and Spanish and [Family Events Toolkit](#) in English and Spanish to help organize events.

### 5. Workplace Visits

Consider taking your child to your workplace and talking about the types of tasks you do on a regular basis. Perhaps a family friend or relative may be able to take your child to work too.

