

1. Informal Talks on Workplace Skills

Turn what you know about your teen's interests and hobbies into a conversation about the skills needed to be successful at part-time jobs, internships, apprenticeships, or full-time jobs.

Start by:

- Sharing stories about your first job. Explain your role and responsibilities.
- Tell your teen about the skills you needed to be successful at that first job. Share the skills you developed in that job that you still use today.
- Ask your teen what skills they need to be successful in their interests and hobbies (e.g., sports, video games, art).

2. Conversations on Failure

The fear of failure is real for many teens, yet failure is an important part of STEM learning and career development. You can help your young person normalize failure as a part of learning by sharing examples of how you've had setbacks and failures at work. Ways to share:

- Talk about a time you experienced a setback or failed at something. Explain how you handled it and what you did next.
- Share how the setback or failure helped you become better at what you do.
- Watch the [Learning from Failure](#) video together. Then, research historical figures whose failures led to significant innovations.



3. Create a Personal Profile

By high school, your teen likely has a set of interests, skills, and hobbies that they can easily name. These interests may even influence their initial thoughts on life after high school. Help your young person create a personal profile as a step toward writing a resume. This profile can be created with simply a paper and pen, as a collage, or as a full art project! Have your teen list their interests, skills, and goals. Together, think of other characteristics to add to the profile. While your teen works, create your own profile. Compare theirs with yours. Share how your personal profile has changed over the years.

4. STEM Activities at Home

Trying out careers together can be a great bonding experience with your teen. [RoadTrip Nation](#) has resources that make it easy for you and your young person to create a career roadmap based on their interests.



5. Careers in the Wild

Help your teen to interview friends, family members, and community members about their careers. Your teen can ask questions like:

- How did you choose your career?
- What skills do you use most often in your work?
- What activities and/or skills have you carried with you from high school?
- What would you tell your teenage self to keep doing or start doing?