



Ten Tips That Help Excite Kids About Getting a Job

1. Share with them what you like about your job or responsibilities-not just the financial rewards but the satisfaction you get from different aspects of it. Discuss your career dreams and how you did (or did not) pursue them. Be honest about the things you like about your job, what you don't, your career plans for the future and how you will attain that goal.
2. Take notice of your kids' innate talents and interests; comment and encourage their development. Explain how specific strengths could translate to a successful career. Look for attributes such as leadership and negotiation skills, detail orientation, mediation and conflict resolution skills or analytical and problem solving abilities. Praise these talents and help your child investigate careers that would utilize them.
3. When you assign responsibilities around the house, draw parallels between how your child executes them and how that skill could be valued in a job. For example, if your son or daughter never forgets to take out the trash, praise her reliability, punctuality and teamwork. If your son never forgets to feed the dog, applaud his maturity, sense of responsibility, compassion and nurturing.
4. Instigate lively discussions with friends and family about the jobs they've had in their lives, their dreams, aspirations, successes and challenges. Encourage kids' curiosity about what people do for a living and how they ended up in the job they have. Talk about the educational or vocational training that was required.
5. Recognize and reward behaviors that will develop into strong marketable skills such as honesty, accountability, accuracy, punctuality and teamwork. They not only develop a child's character, they prepare them for becoming a respected employee or employer.
6. Engage kids in lively discussions about their futures; ask questions about what they like to do most at school, after school or with friends. Help them connect-the-dots between their interests and jobs that would incorporate those interests. Spend time together exploring options. Go on field trips, to the library, to neighborhood career fairs and corporate open houses. Visit college campuses and vocational training centers and ask questions about what people do for a living, what skills they needed to develop, who will hire them and what they will do on the job every day.
7. Add a new dimension to vacations and family outings by discussing the people behind the activities, events and exhibits you enjoy. Talk about who keeps our national parks safe and beautiful; who keeps the ocean and marine life healthy and vital; what professionals coordinate a museum or art exhibit. Delve into the backgrounds of the people who keep our world working smoothly and safely and who innovate new and better ideas that continually improve our standard of living.

8. Help your kids develop an appreciation and awareness of all the professionals who affect their lives on a daily basis, from the people who build our roads to the waste management employees who collect and recycle waste to the farmer, food distributors and grocers who get food to the market shelves. Explore behind-the-scenes teamwork and all the jobs and talents involved.
9. Help your kids develop strong interpersonal communication skills. Don't let them focus only on computer, phone or text messaging skills. Help them learn how to verbalize their ideas and rationales concisely and to present them to others. The fear of speaking in public is one of the most common afflictions shared by adults. Help your child grow up at ease and confident in front of others. It will be a huge boost to their education, career and social success.
10. Help your kids develop a good work ethic by setting a good example. Do what you say you're going to do, live up to your responsibilities, be a team player and give 100% on the job-especially the job of preparing your kids for the future. Don't let your kids grow up thinking that work is a four-letter word. Help them realize the great satisfaction that comes from helping others, doing a job well and reaping the rewards that will allow them to enjoy their lives as sought-after, respected and valued members of the workforce.