



## Help Your Middle Schooler Explore Future Careers Now!

Bet you wish that when you were a kid you could have had someone tell you what your future would really be like—a wise person who could share the secrets the next 20 years would hold and set your feet on the right path. (Of course, you might not have paid close attention to all those words back then, but still, you could have stored the unused nuggets away, ready to be retrieved when important decisions were looming.) Looking back, it would have saved a lot of headaches and sleepless nights if you had known how to get ready for the real future. No doubt, we all probably would have done some things differently.

### So, How About Your Child?

Is there someone who can impart this life-changing, stress-reducing, headache-relieving information? How about... you? There's no reason you can't be that person. If you know about important career trends, you can help your child get a jump on his or her dreams.

You can point him or her in the direction of discovering what 21st-century careers will be like. (An added bonus: These trends are pretty valuable for helping you in your career choices, too.)

### It's Not Too Early!

You may think it's too early to think about your child's future career, but it's not. Even if his or her dreams are "all over the map," your child's budding interests make this the perfect time to begin investigating career ideas and options. Sue Swaim, executive director of the National Middle School Association, believes that "middle school is a time to discover, question, and experience a wide variety of different possibilities."

By the time your child graduates from high school, careers in technology will dominate almost every conceivable field. It's no exaggeration to say that middle schoolers need to start planning for careers in technology now. There are many concrete steps you can take, whether your youngster has a specific career goal in mind or is simply "shopping around."

Research shows that it is your support, wisdom, and guidance that will have the greatest influence on the career your child eventually chooses. So the more you know, the better you can help your child...today and tomorrow!

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