



Interest Inventories

Learn more about your child's interests and possible careers

Interest inventories are a good way to help students investigate careers that match their strengths and skills. Watch the short video Identifying Interests, which shows one student using his interest in animals to investigate what it takes to become a vet. Use the following websites to help your child identify his or her interests and investigate possible careers and degrees. Using the topics in the video and the information on these sites, work through the questions on the next page to make a career exploration plan.

Future Finder

<http://www.ownyourownfuture.com/future-finder>

Students can discover potential careers with this tool. Choose a personal interest and be led to a list of corresponding careers. Select a career to see a short description and the required education. Students are then led to a list of websites with college and career information.

Achieve Texas

http://www.achievetexas.org/POS_Covers.htm

Explore career paths through 16 career clusters at this site. Programs of Study (POS) have been created for each of the 16 Career Clusters. Each cluster features career brochures with employment outlook and an online magazine with detailed career information, articles and advice, popular career choices, and suggested high school courses.

What do you like?

<http://www.bls.gov/k12/>

This site allows students to select a career that interests them and learn how to prepare for it, the rate of growth for the occupation, potential salaries, education requirements, and how students can get started preparing for the career.

Reality Check

<http://www.cdr.state.tx.us/realitycheck/>

This tool from the Texas Workforce Commission give students a glimpse of what life after high school is like. The Future Salary and Career Direct tools help students find more information on specific careers or look up salaries.



Career Exploration Plan

Work through the following questions to create your personal career exploration plan!

1. Carlos was interested in becoming a vet. What career areas interest you?
2. What education do these careers require? What courses in high school best prepare you for the career? What courses should you take in middle school to prepare you for success in high school?
3. Make a list of jobs within each career area. What do you need to learn about these jobs (e.g. pay, work hours, workplace)?
4. What opportunities do you have to explore this career firsthand (volunteering, job shadowing, etc.)? How can you best prepare for this career early?