



Talking to Young Children about College

CAREGIVER #1:

It's never too soon to talk about college.

CAREGIVER #2:

It seemed so far off in the future.

CAREGIVER #3:

Before I knew it...

CAREGIVER #4:

...it was time.

CAREGIVER #2:

She always wanted to be a lawyer...

CAREGIVER #5:

...a firefighter...

CAREGIVER #3:

...a rock star.

CAREGIVER #1:

I took the time to listen.

CAREGIVER #2:

I found out what he was passionate about.

CAREGIVER #4:

He turned his talents into a career.

CAREGIVER #5:

I said school was important but his life also had to be balanced.

CAREGIVER #3:

Balanced by getting sleep...

CAREGIVER #2:

...exercise...

CAREGIVER #1:

...eating right and being with friends.

CAREGIVER #3:

She grew up so quickly, I'm glad we talked about it early on.

NARRATOR:

He zips through a room clutching his blanket over his shoulders like a cape, and declares, "I'm going to be Superman when I grow up!"

Believe it or not, this is a great time to talk with him about his future.

Though college may seem years and years away; it is good to encourage ideas of what their future could bring. As can be expected, their ideas will change often – today it may be Superman. Tomorrow...a firefighter. And next week they'll announce their plans to become a pilot.

But simple discussions can help you understand what inspires and interests them. Ask them what their favorite classes are in school and why. Do they like to be around people, or do they like building things? Maybe they'd be a good teacher, or an engineer.

As your child reaches the middle school years, take time to visit with them about what they like to do and match those interests to possible careers. Remind your child that they were born with unique gifts – what do they believe those gifts are, and how could their education tie into them?

But also encourage balance of their whole being. So focusing on schoolwork is important, but make sure they are getting enough sleep, exercise, and are eating nutritious food and building good relationships to nurture their mental, spiritual, physical and emotional needs. These healthy habits will help them be prepared for tomorrow.

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