



Career Kids

PO Box 7032
Auburn, CA 95604
(800) 537-0909 • Fax (916) 624-7267
www.careerkids.com

Careers For Me Junior

Teacher's Guide

Careers For Me Junior is a paper-pencil assessment used to start the process of career awareness with young children. Users should:

- Learn more about themselves and their personal interests.
- Gain an awareness of various new job titles.
- Have an understanding of how jobs can be grouped into clusters.
- Be encouraged to research careers, which fit their interests.
- Start the process of how they fit in with the world of work.

Suggested Supplemental Materials

Students will go through a process of doing simple research for one career. The easiest way to research a career at this age level is to use the Career for Me Junior Reference Book, available through www.careerkids.com. There are a number of other ways to research jobs, including talking to a family member or neighbor, looking at books, and observing people at work. There are some materials, such as software, that is available for young grades. Contact us for more information if you do not have resources at your school.

Level of Difficulty

Careers For Me Junior is recommended for grades K-3. We recommend that the teacher/counselor administering the assessment walk the students through by reading the instructions with them. The younger grades and some students in grades 2-3 will need assistance as they go through the pictures. While there is a picture for every interest in the assessment, non-readers

will still benefit by having the picture description read aloud as they go through it. The mature student may find the booklet too simplistic if they have had an extensive career education background (if so, please take a look at *Careers For Me II*).

Before Beginning Careers For Me

There is no printed introduction in *Careers For Me Junior*. We recommend you ask the following questions to the class to open the discussion about careers:

- First, feel comfortable using the word *career*. It is appropriate at this age to introduce children to terminology that they will use during their career awareness journey.
- Ask students why they believe school is important. Go around the class and ask each student to share their answer to the all-time question “What do you want to be when you grow up?” Tie in school subjects with the careers they share.*
- Ask the class to name the workers at their school (principal, janitor, cafeteria workers, etc.). Expand it to other parts of their community: the grocery store, the gas station, and so on.
- Explain the concept of clusters. Demonstrate the variety of ways jobs can be grouped into *families*, or clusters, depending on the criteria. A good way to demonstrate this is to talk about

*At Work Video Series is an excellent way to show how school subjects relate to the world of work.

jobs that work with animals. Have the class brainstorm with: jobs that work with animals; jobs where one works outdoors; jobs that work with food, etc.

The *Careers For Me* series is clustered the following way:

- Environment and Agriculture
 - Arts and Communications
 - Business and Management
 - Industrial and Engineering Systems
 - Health Services
 - Human Resources/Services
-
- Explain the reasons this interest assessment is being given to them. Remind the students that this is not a test. There are no right or wrong answers.
 - Discuss with the class the importance of goal setting. Setting up small goals is essential to reach the bigger goals. For the young student, turning schoolwork in complete and on time is an important goal.

Taking *Careers For Me Junior*

When the class is ready, ask students to open the folder so that it lays flat. They should be looking at rows of pictures. Each row is asking the students to circle their likes and interests for a cluster. The younger grades will need the teacher/counselor to read the heading for each picture. Ask the students to circle the picture if it is true for them as you read it aloud.

After the class has reviewed all pictures, they should count how many pictures they circled in each row. Take one row at a time, count the circles and write the number in the shape that belongs to the row. This is a good time to point out that some clusters have more circled, so they may be drawn to careers within that cluster.

When there is a number written in each shape, it is time to review the sample careers. Job titles

may be difficult for young readers, so it will probably be necessary to read through the careers with the class. Direct the class to circle *all* careers which sound like something they might like.

Next, turn the flap over for the mini-research page. Students pick one job to research from the jobs they circled. They are also told to circle the cluster shape for the job they chose. From there, they can answer simple yes/no questions about this job. The *Career Kids Junior Reference Book* is an excellent source for young students to use.

Parent Signature

Getting a parent signature is, of course, optional. It is there to encourage student-parent discussion. Parents are encouraged to discuss goal setting, school, dreams, hobbies and their own line of work with their children. Parents can be introducing their young children to careers on a regular basis -- everytime they run errands, go to the doctor and travel, for instance.

Activities

On the last page of *Careers For Me Junior*, we have included two simple, fun activities. *Connect the Dots* is a common activity most children have done. The second activity is one which has children matching tools with jobs.

Go to
www.careerkids.com
for information on the
**Careers for Me Junior
Reference Book**

**Sign up for free offers,
discounts and
helpful information through the
5-Minute
Career & Guidance News at
www.careerkids.com**