





DEAR FAMILY,

Your child has been learning about careers and pathways to different occupations as part of the *Jobs of the Future* program from the U.S. Department of Labor. One great way for kids your child's age to start preparing for their future: being aware of opportunities like youth apprenticeships. Different from internships, these paid programs help students set professional goals while providing:

 on-the-job training, experience, and credentials  mentoring opportunities
 a foundation for jump-starting a career

Flip the page for tips on how to have an age-appropriate discussion with your child about the future, and discover apprenticeship opportunities together. ➡

WHAT EXACTLY IS AN APPRENTICESHIP?

Some people are surprised to learn that apprenticeships are available for occupations in almost every field and that youth apprenticeships, in particular, can give teens an early start on a career with an industry-recognized credential they can take anywhere as proof of their proficiency. Since the legal age to begin work is 16 in most states, youth apprenticeships are typically designed for high school juniors and seniors.

In-demand industries that offer youth apprenticeships: advanced manufacturing, cybersecurity, information technology, engineering, and marketing—to name just a few!

START THE CAREER PLANNING CONVERSATION!



CONVERSATION STARTERS FOR STUDENTS TO FAMILY MEMBERS

- What are some of the most important skills you learned on the job?
- Is there any career-related info you wish you had known when you were a student?
- Would you change anything about the position/industry you work in? Why or why not?

CONVERSATION STARTERS FOR FAMILY MEMBERS TO STUDENTS

- How could learning about various types of jobs at an early age benefit you?
- What career paths do you find most interesting?
- How can learning about youth apprenticeships give you a clearer idea of what your next steps should/could be?

+ BONUS

- Reflect on what you've learned together! What insights have you gained?

EXPLORE THESE ONLINE RESOURCES AS A FAMILY

Begin here, and check with your child's school to see if they recommend any other career exploration resources!

- Learn more about apprenticeship and find real job listings of apprenticeships across the country: [apprenticeship.gov](https://www.apprenticeship.gov)
- Find out more about apprenticeships for high school students: [apprenticeship.gov/educators/high-school](https://www.apprenticeship.gov/educators/high-school)
- Get information about industries that have the most new jobs: [bls.gov/ooh/](https://www.bls.gov/ooh/)
- Answer questions about yourself to unlock ideas for careers and apprenticeships, or browse hundreds of careers by industry: [mynextmove.org](https://www.mynextmove.org)