



Your school has been invited by a Host Employer or Industry to participate in Work Inspiration. After a selection process your child has been selected to be involved.

As a parent or guardian you have the greatest influence on your child's education and career decisions. You can help them by being an active partner, encouraging them to discover their interests, skills and personal attributes. Making career choices has never been easy, but the world of work is now so complex that you and your children need to undertake careful investigation so that their career can be properly planned.

The workplace your children will enter may be very different to when you started working. A student leaving school today can expect six to ten job changes and three to five different occupations during their lifetime. They may spend time unemployed, be involved in education throughout their lifetime and move away from the area or country where they were born and will be involved in jobs/careers that do not yet exist.

WHAT IS WORK INSPIRATION?

There is a mismatch between the skills young people have when they finish their education and what prospective employers are looking for. Young people need to be inspired by the workplace and gain a clearer picture of work directly from employers and employees.

Work Inspiration is a business-led initiative that provides young people with opportunities to experience the world of work first hand in a meaningful and inspiring way. More than just work experience, Work

Inspiration provides a way for employers to play a valuable role in shaping their future workforce and the next generation of Australian workers.

At Work Inspiration students will be involved in activities based on Three Insights that will develop the students' knowledge of themselves and the world of work:

- 1. All About Me:** Discovers the students' talents, passions, interests and personality
- 2. Look Behind the Scenes:** Students will tour a workplace, meet employees and discover types of opportunities available
- 3. Careers Happen:** Students interview employees about their career journey.

Work Inspiration provides motivation for students by:

- Raising their aspirations and broadening their perspective
- Supporting the development of their career goals
- Explaining the relevance of education and lifelong learning.

As a result of their involvement in Work Inspiration students will:

- See and experience an operational workplace
- Learn about employers' expectations
- Learn about different work roles and opportunities within an organisation
- Meet employees and engage in career conversations with them about their jobs and their individual career journeys

- Gain an understanding of themselves and their strengths and how these apply to a workplace.

WHAT IS A CAREER?

In today's world the term 'career' includes everything you do in your life, including: paid and unpaid work; volunteering; education and training; community activities; family roles; sport; leisure and social activities.

WHAT IS CAREER DEVELOPMENT?

The term career development describes the ongoing process of a person managing their life, learning and work over their lifespan. It involves developing the skills and knowledge that enables individuals to plan and make informed decisions about education, training and career choices.

HOW CAN YOU HELP YOUR CHILD?

Your attitude can have a powerful impact on your child's career development and how they manage their career exploration. Some of the ways in which you can support your child to prepare for their future include having a positive attitude, watching for activities your child is drawn to and being aware of their talents (what they are good at), interests (what they like or enjoy doing), values (what is important to them), aspirations (what they want to achieve) and skills (what they can do).

Try to develop the type of relationship with your child where you can have 'career conversations' with them in a casual, non-confronting way. Try to avoid pressure questions

that expect them to identify what they want to do when they leave school, instead take the opportunity to talk about career options whenever possible, for example when a career story appears on TV or in the newspaper. Talk about the world of work as you have experienced it. Share some of your work and life experiences and those of other family members and friends.

During Work Inspiration encourage your child to reflect on their experiences with questions like:

- What did you enjoy the most and why did it interest you?
- What did you learn about yourself from that experience?
- How could you get experience in that field of work?
- I wonder what qualifications might be required for that field of work
- Who could you talk with to get more information or careers advice about that field of work?
- If that work doesn't sound interesting, has it given you any new ideas?
- Are there any follow-up activities that you can do?

Encourage them to develop a positive self-esteem: Focus on their achievements – but not just at school. Acknowledge their efforts in all their activities – keeping their room tidy, participating in sport, community activities, setting goals and achieving them. Show them you believe in them!

Allow for a change in direction: It is very unusual for a child to choose a career at a very early age and never waiver in their choice. Be prepared for changes in direction and encourage them to continue to explore a variety of options.

Encourage them to learn from their mistakes: Even if you feel uncertain about their choice, remain positive as they take their first steps towards their career. It isn't the end of the world if they choose the wrong work experience or subject. Discovering that a previous career interest is not for them is a positive step in the decision-making process as it gives them the time to re-assess their interests and to broaden their options.

Encourage them to find an industry contact: When your child begins to express an interest in a particular career, if possible, help them to establish links with someone in that field. This person can then provide a direct, first-hand information link with that particular occupation or industry.

Share your experiences: Talk to your child about your own experiences of work and study and your reasons for making particular career decisions. Discuss the problems you have faced and how you dealt with them. Speak openly of the positive and negative aspects of the jobs you have done.

Remember - the most important thing is to be positive about the ideas and choices made by your child and their chances of finding a satisfying career path. Choosing a career that matches your child's interests, skills and values significantly increases their chance of success and happiness.

