



Why Parents Need to Help
3 simple reasons why parents should take an active role in their child's career exploration process:

❖ **Parents will benefit in the long run.**

It's your home that your child will return to at age 25 or 35 if he is unable to pay his bills or find the motivation to keep a steady job. If you help your child make smart educational and career decisions when he is young, you'll be able to share your child's future successes and won't have to share your home, expenses or debt.

❖ **The school counselor can't do it all.**

Public school counselors in Minnesota are swamped with many students, rarely able to provide individualized career exploration assistance. In Minnesota, the ratio is: 1 counselor to 750 students – three times the recommended national ratio.

❖ **Your child can't do it alone.**

To many youth (and adults), the career exploration process seems overwhelming and often gets ignored as a result. Parents can help break the process into manageable tasks, providing support, guidance and perspective. It's difficult for youth to perceive life beyond age 25. If left to their own devices, many choose **not** to choose and limit their future options by focusing on the present, not the future.

Adapted from
Starting the Conversation: Career Exploration Guide for Parents & Children
[by Texas Workforce Commission]

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