



Cha-Ching Family Activity Do it Passionately

Overview: Instead of asking your child(ren) “*What do you want to be when you grow up?*” ask them what they are interested in and explore how interests become careers. After all, not every child can grow up to make millions as a YouTuber or professional gamer, right? In school, your child has been learning about making choices about money—specifically earning, spending, saving, and donating money. In this activity, you discuss what your child has learned at school and engage in further conversation about your child’s future. Together, you track how your child uses his or her free time over a one-week period. Then, you discuss how some of the activities your child chooses may help identify—or hinder—his or her future career path. Finally, you examine the benefits of being a lifelong learner, staying adaptable as their interests and careers change.

Activity Duration: Two discussions plus a week of tracking free time.

Outcomes

Families will:

- Discuss how current interests could be applied to a future career
- Consider the impact a child’s decisions about free-time activities can have on future plans
- Examine the career benefits of being a lifelong learner

Materials

- Computer or tablet with internet access
- Video: [Do It Passionately](#)
- Handout: *Free Time Tracker* (1 copy per child)
- Handout: *Free Time Tracker Example* (1 copy per child)
- Handout: *Interests and Potential Careers* (1 copy per child)
- Highlighters, markers, or colored pencils in different colors (optional)

Procedure

1. ENGAGE your child in a discussion about the [Cha-Ching videos](#) they have watched at school, important lessons they have learned, and questions they still have about money. You are encouraged to share your answers, too! Your child will learn a lot from your real-world experiences with money.
2. WATCH the [Do It Passionately](#) video together.
3. DISCUSS Zul and his path to becoming an engineer. Ask questions such as:



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- What were Zul’s interests? Did his interests change? Why did they change? Is that ok or not? Why?
 - When Zul finished 5th in the race, he wasn’t discouraged. Instead, he decided to learn from the experience, make changes, and get better. Can you think of a time that you learned from a disappointing experience? What was it and what did you learn?
 - While Zul’s friends were eating pizza and playing sports, he stayed focused on fixing his go-kart. Do you think this was a good decision? What kinds of things do you do where you focus like he did? What distracts you from your hobbies or things that you find interesting or fun? How do you balance interests and activities with spending time with friends and other activities?
 - What other ‘jobs’ can you do with the same or different-evolving *interests*?
4. CHALLENGE your child to track free-time activities for at least one week using the *Free Time Tracker*. Let them know that you will be reviewing it together when they are done. You might consider tracking your free time on a separate copy, too. This will allow you to compare and discuss how each of you uses your time.
- *Note: If your child spends a fair amount of time on a device, encourage them to track how that time is used. For example, how much is spent playing games, watching videos, listening to a book, gathering information, chatting with friends, etc. Many devices offer built-in ways to track screen time. Discuss what they could be doing with their time that will be engaging AND help them for their future.*
5. ENGAGE your child in a review of their *Free Time Tracker*.
- Look for trends in how free time was used. Develop categories for activities such as family time, screen time, physical activity, creativity, homework. If desired, use different colors of highlighters or a marker to color code the schedule. Doing so can help make patterns more easily visible. The *Free Time Tracker Example* may serve as a guide for how to categorize and color-code the information.
 - Discuss the observations you and your child have:
 - What activity was done most frequently? Why?
 - Do the types of activities seem balanced? If not, what seems to be done too much or too little?
 - Discuss if it’s okay to do some activities for fun. When is it okay? When isn’t it? Why?
 - How can some of your child’s interests or activities relate to a future career? Use the Interests and Potential Careers handout to spark conversation.
 - *Note: Many children look at their time spent doing activities such as playing sports, watching videos online, or playing video games as something they can someday do professionally. While there are certainly plenty of*



professional athletes as well as famous YouTubers and gamers, there are many other careers that also connect to these interests. Encourage your child to think “outside of the box.”

- Discuss how interests—and careers—typically change over time, and that’s why it’s important to stay curious and always learning. There are many jobs that existed in the past but no longer do and many jobs that exist now that didn’t exist even a few years ago! How does embracing change and lifelong learning help someone find new career paths?
6. ENCOURAGE your child to pursue their passions. Before moving on to a new activity or interest, invite your child to consider what interests them about it and why they are moving on to something new. Getting exposure to a variety of activities and interests can be great for children, but sometimes the “newest” activity or something that their peers encourage can distract a child from something they love.

Optional Extension

Consider some of your child’s strengths. Do they exhibit strong leadership skills? Are they nurturing and caring? Consider how these character traits might relate to future career options and discuss them with your child.

Additional Resources

- [Career Interest Explorer Assessment for Elementary Students](#)
- [5 Ways to Prepare Kids for Jobs that Don’t Exist Yet](#)
- [How You Can Raise Robot-Proof Children](#)
- [5 Future Jobs You've Never Heard of But That Your Kids Will Flock to](#)
- [It's Parental Fears—Not Technology—That's Putting Our Children's Future Careers At Risk](#)
- [Tips on How Parents Can Put Their Children with Disabilities on the Path to Future Employment](#)
- [YouTube career or college? The new question facing teens](#)



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Free-Time Tracker

Directions: Track how you use your free time for one week. At the end of the week, look for patterns in how you used your time.

Time	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
7 am							
8 am							
9 am							
10 am							
11 am							
12 pm							
1 pm							
2 pm							
3 pm							
4 pm							
5 pm							
6 pm							
7 pm							
8 pm							
9 pm							
10 pm							



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Interests and Potential Careers

Many interests children have can lead to careers in the future. How do you think these interests and careers might be connected? Can you think of any other interests and future career possibilities?

Childhood Interest	Future Career Possibility
Sports	Sports marketing Broadcasting Physical therapy Athletic trainer Sports medicine doctor
Video games	Video game design Graphic design Electrical engineering Computer science Unmanned vehicle or drone operation
Watching videos online	Animation Social marketing Journalism Broadcasting Videography