



**Nurturing**

***Dreams***

**Guiding**

**Our Children**

**For Their**

***Future***



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# A Guide for Parents in Education and Career Guidance (ECG)

## A Note to Parents:

All parents want the best for their children and hope that they find happiness and purpose in life. It is important to recognise that you can play a significant role in the decisions our young make for their lives.

How can you help your child discover his or her interests, abilities and passion? How can you guide your child to make informed education and career choices that will impact his or her life?

Nurturing Dreams, Guiding Our Children for Their Future is a guide on how you can be involved in your child's education and career journey.



# 7 Ways to be Involved in Your Child's Education and Career Journey



# 1. Show Concern and Support for Your Child



While parents acknowledge the importance of spending time to discuss with their children their education plans and career preferences, some may struggle with engaging their children in conversation.

It is important for your child to know how much you care about her and her future, and how willing you are to support her. Your child will have more confidence in making informed education and career decisions that are aligned to her interests, abilities and passion, taking into account the current and future job opportunities available.

## Try engaging your child using these conversation starters:

1

What are your favourite subjects and Co-Curricular Activities (CCA) in school? Why?

2

What do you value most at home and in school? Why?

3

What are some of the things you take pride in? Why?

4

What are some tasks you enjoy or dislike doing? Why?

5

Which occupations would you like to explore in the future? Why?

6

Which would be the education options that could help you achieve your aspirations?

7

If you can do any job in the world, what would it be?



# Your Attitude Matters.

Be open-minded.

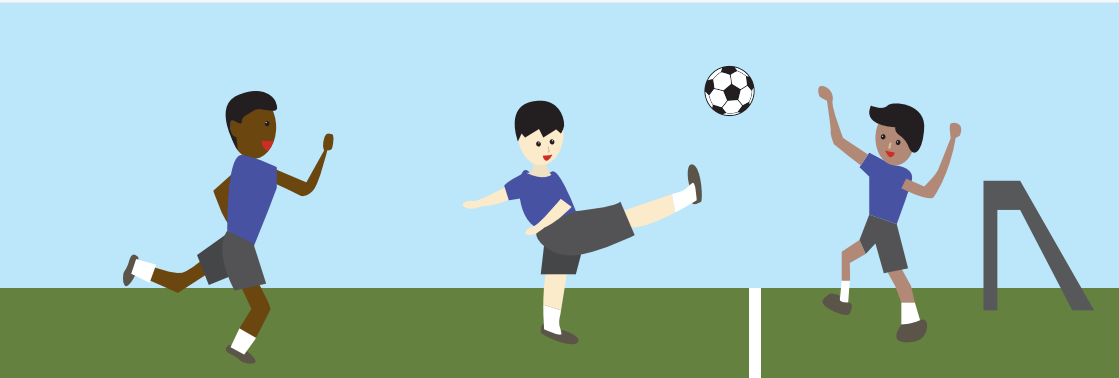
Avoid directing your child's plans without going through careful considerations.

Your child would probably not care how much you know, until she knows how much you care.



2.

# Observe Your Child's Strengths and Interests through Various Activities



Your attention to your child's world is important. Everyone has a set of unique attributes. Observe your child's interests, abilities and passion through his various activities and interactions with different people.

The more you know about what your child values, what he is interested in, and what he is good at, the more likely you will be able to help him make informed choices in his education and career explorations.

Help your child identify his preferences. Does he prefer working with people, data, things or ideas?



### People

Does your child enjoy working with people, whether in communicating with, leading, helping or teaching others?



### Data

Does your child enjoy working with numbers and information to measure or make decisions?



### Things

Does your child enjoy working with his hands, machines or tools?



### Ideas

Does your child enjoy using ideas and imagination to create things or solve problems?





**3.**

**Listen and Find Out the  
Schools or Courses  
Your Child is Interested In**

As your child progresses to the next key education stage, you may want to guide her in the decision-making process by considering:

1

Her interests, abilities and passion

2

Her career aspirations

3

The possible education options

4

The environments of respective schools or education institutions

# Discuss these questions with your child when choosing a secondary school:

## Who am I?

### **The more I know about myself, the better I can make informed choices**

- What are my interests, abilities and passion?
- How would they affect my choice of secondary school?

## Where can I go from here?

### **There are many education and career options worth exploring**

- What are the secondary school courses (Express, N(A), N(T)) and types of schools (e.g. Autonomous Schools, Specialised Schools, schools offering Integrated Programme) that are suitable for me?
- What are the subjects, CCA or programmes that can nurture my interests, abilities and passion in the secondary school?
- What other factors could influence my decision?

## How do I get there?

### **I will take ownership of my goals, and take positive steps towards fulfilling them**

- What are my academic goals and career aspirations?
- How can I utilise available resources to bring myself closer to my goals and aspirations?
- What learning opportunities are there for me?



Discuss these questions with your child when considering post-secondary education options:

**Who am I?**

**The more I know about myself, the better I can make informed choices**

- What are my interests, abilities and passion?
- How would they affect my future education and career choices?

**Where can I go from here?**

**There are many education and career options worth exploring**

- What are the types of education institutions that are suitable for me?
- Are there learning and training programmes offered by the education institutions that can nurture my interests, abilities and passion?
- What other factors could influence my decision?

**How do I get there?**

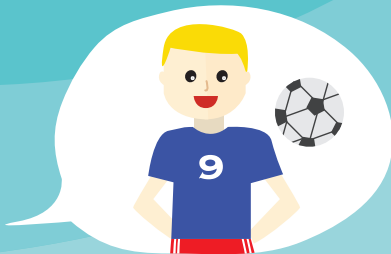
**I will take ownership of my goals, and take positive steps towards fulfilling them**

- What are my academic and career goals?
- How can I utilise available resources to bring myself closer to my academic and career goals?
- How can I find opportunities to constantly upgrade my knowledge and skills, and add value to my future workplace?



4.

## Introduce a Variety of Occupations to Your Child



Help your child learn more about the various education and career options that he can choose from.

You may want to:

**Start** by talking about your own industry and career, and bringing your child to your workplace

**Explore** the Education and Career Guidance (ECG) portal with your child for related information (Note that personal accounts are given to students from Primary 5 onwards)

**Seize** teachable moments and discuss the different jobs required in a variety of settings (e.g. places of interest, restaurants, banks)

**Explain** how different occupations contribute towards the society

**Check** the print or online media for more information on the variety of industries and related careers

**Speak** with his teachers, Education and Career Guidance (ECG) Counsellor, school counsellor, relatives or experts in the various fields

## Suggested Activity:


Discuss the possible education pathways that lead to your child's career aspirations.

Introduce a variety of industries and related careers to your child.

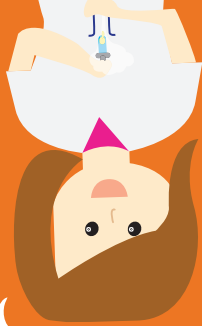
### **Reminder:**

It is important to stay updated with the current changes in the landscape to connect with your child. Avoid relying only on your own past experiences alone as education policies have changed and new pathways have been created.

Stay positive. Many pathways are worth taking, and there are opportunities for continuous learning and recognition of individual's skills and talents.




I can take care of people.



I can pursue my passion.

# 5. Support Your Child's Aspirations

When I grow up..



I can protect my nation.



Career exploration helps your child make decisive plans for her future. Often, children only have knowledge about industries and careers in their immediate environment.

Ensure your child is exposed to a broad spectrum of industries and careers as she considers her career interests.

As your child shares her career aspirations, help her clarify her interests and expectations further. You may consider asking her the following questions:

1 What qualification and skills do you need for the job?

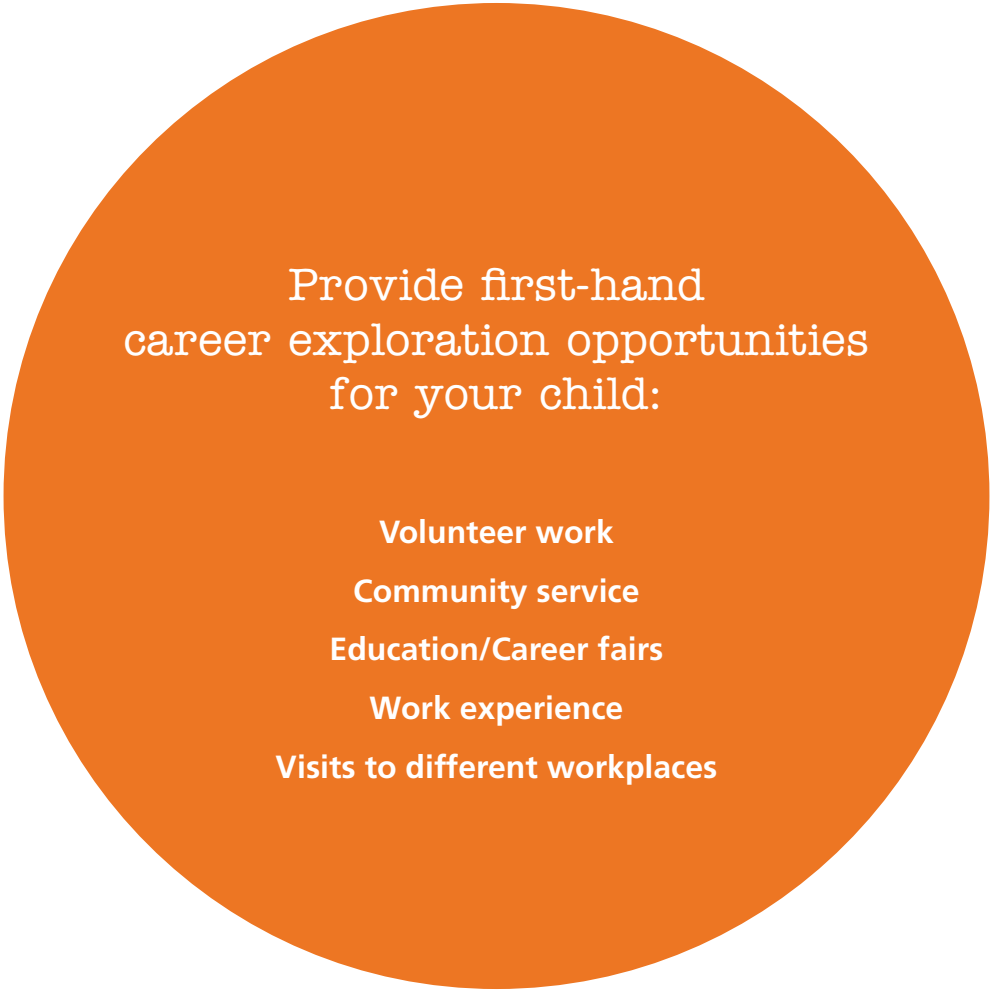
2 What triggered your interest in the particular industry and occupation?

3 What do you like and dislike about this occupation?

4 What is expected of someone working in this industry and career?

5 How would you describe a day in this occupation?

6 What are the opportunities for continual learning and growth?



Provide first-hand  
career exploration opportunities  
for your child:

**Volunteer work**

**Community service**

**Education/Career fairs**

**Work experience**

**Visits to different workplaces**





Career progression



Jobs in demand



Skills that employers are looking for



Further education options



When your child is older,

1

Encourage her to find out more about different industries and related careers. A good understanding of the work requirements and environment can help her make better education and career decisions.

2

Help your child make informed education and career decisions by using data and trends on future possibilities in specific industries.

3

Work with her on her possible education and career plans. Encourage her to take ownership of her goals and take positive steps towards fulfilling them.

4

Review these decisions and plans periodically to keep her motivated and on-track. However, it may be necessary to adapt and make adjustments along the way.

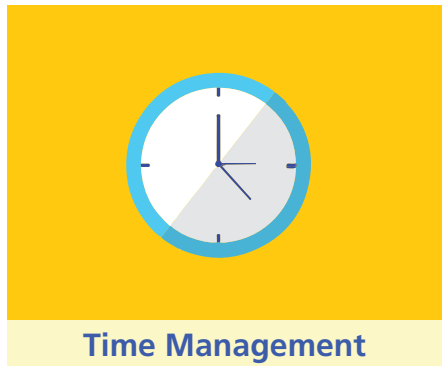
6.

# Instill in Your Child the Importance of Developing Transferable Skills



Help your child develop 21<sup>st</sup> Century Competencies\*, values, and workplace readiness skills to be adaptable and resilient.

Transferable soft skills are needed to get a job and be successful in a career. These include, but are not limited to the following:



\*For more information on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Competencies, please refer to <http://www.moe.gov.sg/education/21cc>

As a parent, speak with your child about what good communication skill is and why it is critical in our global society.

## Some suggested ways:

Demonstrate effective communication skills

Encourage good listening skills

Explain the power of non-verbal language

Encourage activities that promote cross-cultural communication skills

Help your child practise problem-solving skills.

## Some suggested ways:

Provide constructive feedback and share problem-solving techniques (e.g. identify problem, weigh pros and cons)

Allow failures but ensure learning

Encourage independent decision-making



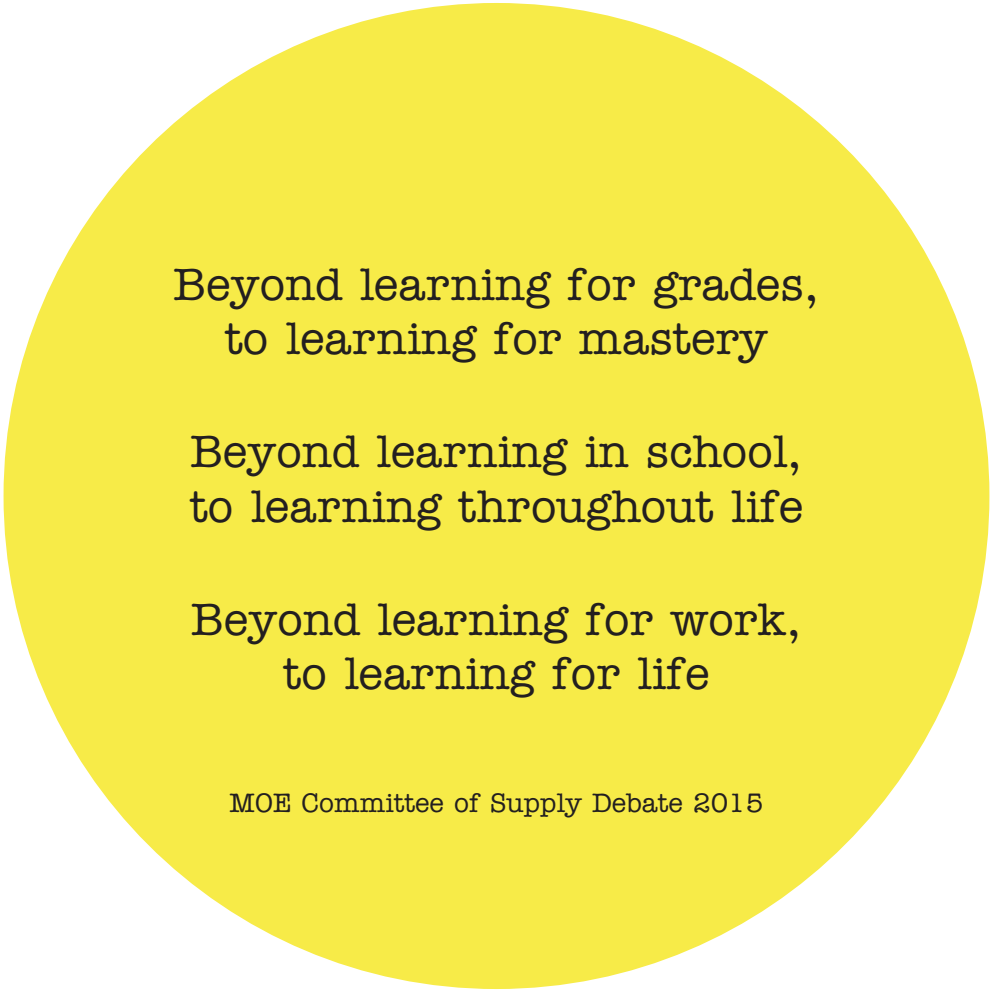
7.

Model Lifelong Learning

SkillsFuture is a national movement to provide Singaporeans with the opportunities to develop their fullest potential throughout life, regardless of their starting points. Through this movement, the skills, passion and contributions of every individual will drive Singapore's next phase of development towards an advanced economy and inclusive society.

Children, from a tender age, learn largely by observation and expectations. Their aspirations, beliefs, attitudes and motivation to succeed are often influenced by their immediate environment.

Embrace lifelong learning. Demonstrate how you continually strive towards excellence through knowledge and experience. Show your child that learning does not happen only in school, but throughout life.



Beyond learning for grades,  
to learning for mastery

Beyond learning in school,  
to learning throughout life

Beyond learning for work,  
to learning for life

MOE Committee of Supply Debate 2015



# Useful Links and Resources

Our Education System



Considerations When Choosing  
Schools and Making Secondary One Options

Secondary School Education Booklet



Post-Secondary Education Brochure


Education and Career Guidance (ECG)



Schoolbag - The Education News Site

21<sup>st</sup> Century Competencies





All our children  
grow up  
with big dreams,  
take them a step closer.





Ministry of Education  
SINGAPORE