

10 TIPS FOR CHOOSING THE RIGHT CAREER FOR YOU

How does a person know what career to work toward? There is no perfect answer, but the following 10 tips will get you off to a good start.

- 1 Get to know yourself** – Complete more than one self-assessment test.
- 2 Identify your strengths and weaknesses** – What do you do well and what do you not do well?
- 3 Develop an inventory of careers** – Write down some careers that might interest you.
- 4 Research different careers** – Talk to others and use the Internet.
- 5 Write the pros and cons** – List positives and negatives about the careers that interest you.
- 6 Network** – Discuss your ideas with others.
- 7 Talk with people who work in your area of interest** – Family and friends are great resources.
- 8 Find a mentor** – Find someone with whom you can discuss your career selection.
- 9 Experiment** – Take a related class or part-time job.
- 10 Don't give up** – “If there is a will, there is a way.”



CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN

EDUCATION, CHILD DEVELOPMENT, AND FAMILY SERVICES INDUSTRY SECTOR



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This material is made pursuant to agreement number 07-0170a of the CTE Community Collaborative Supplemental grant. Funds were administered by the Governor's CTE Initiative SB70/SB 1133 through the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office.

Activity that is the subject of this document was supported in whole or part by the U.S. Department of Education. However, the opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the position or policy of the U.S. Department of Education, and no official endorsement by the U.S. Department of Education should be inferred.

Plan For Success





Remember your favorite teacher? Remember how that teacher influenced your life? With a large number of employees predicted to retire from education, child development, and family services in the next decade, a wealth of career opportunities will be available. You might be able to affect others as your favorite teacher affected you. If you enjoy teaching children from preschool to high school, or you want to be a college professor, this sector is for you. Jobs are available for all levels of education. Training combines classroom instruction with hands-on community work experience.

The **California Career Resource Network**, www.californiacareers.info, is an online resource for exploring careers, personal interests, and reality games.

Go to the **California Career Zone**, www.CACareerzone.org. The *Interest Profiler*, under *Assess Yourself*, identifies personal interests leading to further investigation. We recommend that you spend a few minutes completing these assessments.

Career Pathways



Child Development Pathway

Careers that fall under the Child Development Pathway range from child care providers to child psychologists. Graduating students will be equipped to work with infants through young children. They will have studied growth and development, nutrition and health, learning theories and age appropriate curriculum activities.

CAREERS/CAREER AREAS:

- *Infant Caregivers* • *Preschool Teachers*
- *Parent Educators* • *Child Psychologists*
- *Teacher's Aides* • *Head Start Teachers*
- *After-School Program Supervisors*
- *Family Child Care Supervisors*
- *Adoption or School Counselors*
- *Child Protection Social Workers*



Education Pathway

The Education Pathway prepares students for professional or support positions, pre-kindergarten through grade twelve. Students study human development, positive

guidance and counseling techniques, age and grade appropriate learning strategies, and instructional design.

CAREERS/CAREER AREAS:

- *Teacher's Aides* • *Speech Therapists*
- *Special Education Teachers*
- *Tutors*
- *Counselors or Administrators*
- *Elementary, Secondary or Postsecondary Teachers*



Family and Human Services Pathway

Family and Human Services Pathway encompasses a broad range of careers. Employment opportunities will be available working with children, families, and the elderly. Working with families and individuals to create healthy and stable environments can be a satisfying career. Working with the older generation as an elder care specialist is a relatively new and growing specialty. Continued growth in employment opportunities should be expected as health care professionals find ways to extend life.

CAREERS/CAREER AREAS:

- *Personal/Home Care Aides*
- *Community Workers*
- *Social Workers*
- *Community Organization Director*
- *Family Advocates*
- *Special Needs Case Workers*
- *Elder Care Coordinators*
- *Geriatric Group Home Administrators*



Consumer Services Pathway

Students following the Consumer Services Pathway will learn employment and management skills that include business structure, consumer rights and responsibilities, energy, environment and resource management, product testing and demonstration, and consumer communications. Education is broad-based and designed to prepare students for careers helping customers. With the wide variety of skills acquired through this pathway, the job market is ever expanding.

CAREERS/CAREER AREAS:

- *Credit Counselors*
- *Consumer Affairs Director*
- *Financial Planners*
- *Product and Development Researchers*
- *Product Demonstrators*
- *Property Management*
- *Public Relations and Customer Service Representatives*

