Overview

Selecting a career that involves the care of children gives many people enormous satisfaction. These careers are highly regarded because the welfare of our children ranks at the top of the list in terms of importance.

There is such a variety of careers in this field that those who elect to work with children may find themselves working in their own homes, in a school, at a recreational facility, in a health-care institution -- or even in the arts and entertainment industry.

This lesson will expose students to the vast diversity in careers that involve kids. They may discover that they have what it takes to become a role model and make a difference in a young child's life. After students have researched and expressed an interest in a particular career, a job shadow could be a very worthwhile experience.

Materials

- Access to Choices Explorer
- Access to alternative sources of information on child-related careers
- A copy of the Careers for Those Who Love Children worksheet for each student

Teacher Preparation

- Familiarize yourself with the Work section in Choices Explorer.
- Check to see what other reference options or materials are at your disposal. If your school has a career centre coordinator who can help you, go for it!
- An interesting follow-up to this activity would be a panel discussion presented by four or five speakers who work with children in different capacities. Names of volunteers who are willing to share their experiences with students are available in many school districts.

Suggested Strategy

- Distribute the worksheet to students. Elicit responses to the introductory questions and stimulate a short discussion as students briefly share their thoughts and feelings.
Talk about the career categories listed on the worksheet and "brainstorm" your way through this section with students, recording careers for each of the categories listed. If students cannot think of careers for some of the categories, have them leave these sections blank and fill them in while completing the next step in this lesson.

Have students access Choices Explorer and click on the Work tab. Directions for accessing career articles are on the worksheet. Students will first check out several different child-care careers, then select one to explore and complete the worksheet.

A discussion following the research where students share their findings with each other can be very productive, especially if you ask students to explore a variety of careers.