
This resource for teachers lists 40 elementary career development materials that have been collected to assist teachers in helping elementary students to make the connection between the world of school and the world of work. The materials include articles, bibliographies and annotated bibliographies, guides, hands-on kits, papers/presentations, student journals, teacher guides, information analyses, portfolios, studies, and books. This information is provided for each item as applicable: author(s); date of publication; title; journal or other source; place of publication and publisher; pagination; and an annotation. (YLB)
Elementary Career Development Materials:  
A Teacher's Resource List

Prepared by Marianne Mooney and N. Faye Angel

These materials have been collected to assist teachers in helping elementary students to make the connection between the world of school and the world of work. Students can begin to view themselves as workers and develop a strong work ethic when the theme of work is integrated throughout their every day curriculum.


This article highlights the components of the Career Action Planning (CAP) program instituted in a Springdale, Arizona school. Although the high school program is discussed, there are many applications that can be made for elementary grades. The author discusses the initial planning stage, implementation of the four-year program, conferencing, portfolio use, the counselor's role, evaluation procedures, obstacles and successful practices.


The authors believe there are better ways to measure achievement than with multiple-choice and true-false tests. They emphasize the use of performance assessment measures, such as essays, portfolios, case studies, role plays, demonstrations, games, and experiments. The issues of reliability, validity, objectivity, and usability of performance assessments are addressed.


This literature review contains abstracts for 160 references that provide a wide perspective of career education theories and activities. One hundred popular children's books are summarized for use as career education resource materials.


One section of this annotated bibliography describes 33 children’s books which relate to jobs and career decisions. A publication of special interest, "Career Exploration Series" is also included.

This article discusses how portfolio development can help students assess their strengths and limitations, as well as provide educators with an authentic assessment tool.


Suggestions for identifying and locating affordable and applicable resources are given. In addition, an abbreviated list of federally and/or state affiliated organizations that develop instructional materials is provided.


The author emphasizes the need to forge partnerships between academic subjects and business needs in an effort to build a better work force and strengthen the work ethic. Examples of successful partnerships are provided.

Dissemination and Assessment Center for Bilingual Education. (1976). *Cartel. Annotated bibliography of bilingual bicultural materials*. Austin, TX: Author.

Career education materials for use in bilingual multicultural education are described in this listing.


Approximately 2,200 titles of films, filmstrips, slides, tapes, scripts, games, kits, printed materials, songs, and records that may be used by educators to integrate career development into the total school curriculum are listed in this practitioner's guide. Resources are categorized by grade clusters, career development objectives, and type of media.


Methods to involve community members and merchants in the development and implementation of career fairs are highlighted in this article. Methods may be adapted to any educational level.

Elementary Career Awareness System. Frankfort, KY: Education Associates. Phone number (800) 626-2950; fax (502) 227-8608.

This series of hands-on kits are designed to provide elementary students with an awareness of career clusters, typical job tasks performed, the tools needed to do the job, and the training required.

A portion of module five describes the use of portfolios to improve career development. Both benefits and challenges are addressed.


This guide to children's non-fiction develops criteria for evaluating non-fiction (or informational) books, including career books.


This bibliography is intended for use in evaluation of career development programs for grades K-12. The annotations describe career development guidelines for program review and planning, assessment instruments to measure program effectiveness, and individual competencies for student career development.


An annotated bibliography highlights books that provide guidelines to children whose mothers work outside the home.


The interaction that occurs between five children and adults working in jobs that the children would like to have one day are described in this article.


Gender, occupations, and activities of the characters found in fourteen Caldecott Medal winners, between 1971 and 1984, are examined in this study.

Ninety-seven career development and related materials used by educators are listed in this supplement. Materials selected for inclusion in the guide were located through curriculum material databases, professional and labor organizations, and commercial publishers.


This article addresses the need for a new educational model that supports the total integration of work and learning. Work-based learning opportunities for all young people is seen as the missing component for successful transition programs for today’s students.

I can make a difference. (Student Journal and Teacher Guide). (1995). Columbus, OH: Feinstein Foundation. Phone number (800) 746-9567; fax (614) 486-0087.

The student journal and teacher guide are two separate soft-bound books. The program provides suggestions and a structure to involve students in community service while learning many essential skills.


An information analysis views the portfolio concept as one way to provide for documentation and accountability in the area of career development.


Books listed in this bibliography include those which present working mothers in a positive manner, and those with children that have positive attitudes about their mothers working.

Ohio’s Career Development Blueprint. (1996). Oberlin, OH: Lorain County JVS.

This document stresses the importance of starting the Individual Career Plan during the elementary years to prepare students to make educational and tentative career decisions in the middle grades. In the elementary grades, an emphasis is placed on self-awareness, employability skills, decision-making and goal setting, community involvement, economics, and the reduction of bias.


These portfolios provide ideas and suggestions that help parents assist young children to prepare for the world in which they must live.

This publication lists 76 career materials including books, videos, periodicals, and handouts which cover topics such as, work attitudes, employer skills, career exploration, career choice, career information, career opportunities, and mathematics for the workplace.


The article presents brief annotations of 41 new children’s books, including books about unusual and interesting careers.


Ideas and classroom activities for grades K-6 are provided for involving parents in career education and using community resources effectively. Topics covered include: appreciation and attitudes, decision-making, economic awareness, educational awareness, employability skills, and self-awareness.


General student and teacher resources on service-learning are supplied for elementary, middle, and high school levels in this comprehensive bibliography. Additional resources targeting special education, peer assistance, and reflection are included.


Transition initiative materials introduce career opportunities and choices to students from prekindergarten through 12th grade. The report includes 22 products developed by the project.


This study examined 255 books written between 1970 and 1977 for children in primary grades. Content was analyzed for career concepts and work values. A bibliography of children’s books with work themes is appended.


Ten stories from children’s literature are reviewed for career education elements such as, self-awareness, career awareness, and awareness of the decision-making process.

This handbook for children describes the work people do for self-fulfillment and to pay the bills. Information concerning 196 jobs, organized within 12 job clusters, is provided. Addresses to write for additional information about careers are listed.


This article reveals the immediate need for career counseling in the early grades due to the lack of workplace knowledge and realistic expectations. Resources for career exploration in the early grades are listed.


The importance of career activities for elementary students is discussed and a bibliography of 146 children's books categorized by career area and age level is presented. Strategies for effective use of the bibliography are given.

*Student Career Files for grades 4-6.* (1995). Columbus, OH: Center on Education and Training for Employment. Phone number (800) 848-815; fax (614) 292-1260.

This portable career file includes a worksheet to help students begin to explore and investigate careers in a formal but fun way.


Over 100 children's books under the themes multiculturalism, health and fitness, family and self concept, and careers are listed in this bibliography. Each theme is divided by age and grade level.


A study of children’s picture books analyzed the images of males and females at home and at work, in interior and exterior settings. Images were studied for implications of career aspirations, self-esteem, interactive aspects of gender, power, and environment.


Results of an extensive study evaluating the role of interests, family configuration, and identification with parent's work, in the selection and rejection of careers by elementary students are summarized in this article.

This article reveals how children's literature can contribute to the career awareness of children.


Elementary students are encouraged to learn about themselves, and to explore different education, training, and career options for the future. Units include: You and Your Family, Work and Play, You and Your Values, Decisions, Advantages and Disadvantages of Jobs, Nontraditional Work, You and Your Skills, School Subjects and the World of Work, Industries and Occupations, and Education and Training.
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