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After High School

Even if your child is not thinking about what to do after high school, you should start thinking about it early. Starting early will help prepare your child for this next big step.

As your child grows and learns new things about the world of work and meets more people, she may change her mind about what she wants to do when she grows up. This is normal. It really helps to start preparing early for this important move toward becoming an independent person. By planning for this during the high school years, you are letting your teenager know that you EXPECT her to go to college or to get a job.

What does your child want to do?

Talk with your child about what she wants to do after high school. Start when she's a freshman in high school (or even sooner).

Talk with your child about what she's interested in. Someone who's interested in cars may work in a body shop fixing cars. Someone who likes working with children may become a teacher.

Your child may want to think about these questions:

- What school subjects does I like best? What subjects do I like least?
- What hobbies do I have? What am I good at?
- Does I like working with other people? Or would I rather work by myself?
- Do I have any work experience? ("Work experience" could be any part-time work, babysitting or volunteering.)

To get help in answering these questions, your child could talk to:

- Her high school counselor
- Her teachers
- A [vocational rehabilitation counselor](#)
- You, the parent!

Looking at different jobs

Once your child has looked at what she likes to do, she should look at what jobs match what she likes to do. She could try these places:

- Books about careers in the library.

- Job fairs. Your child could meet employers and ask them what their jobs are like.
- The [U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Outlook Handbook](#) lists and describes many kinds of jobs. It also tells you what training you need to do them.
- [America's Career InfoNet](#) has information about different jobs, a tool to help your child see what skills she has, and more.

Deaf pilots, Deaf ministers, Deaf doctors...

Don't let anyone tell you or your child that there are jobs she can't do. With a little help, your child can do anything! Have your child check out this website: [Achieving Goals: Career Stories of Individuals who Are Deaf and Hard of Hearing](#).

Learn more about picking a career path

Your child should try [Gates to Adventure](#). It's a fun online game that will help your child think through her choices after high school.

Read these sections to learn about different things your child could do after high school:

[College](#)

Read this section if your child wants to go to college after high school.

[Vocational School](#)

Read these pages if your child wants to go to a technical school.

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You can find this page online at:

<http://www.raisingdeafkids.org/learning/transition/index.jsp>