

## EARLY CAREER GUIDANCE: HOW TO HELP PRESCHOOLERS DEVELOP INITIAL PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS

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### ABSTRACT

This article addresses the issue of early career guidance for preschool-age children. The author examines approaches and methods that enable educators to introduce children to various professions and foster an interest in work-related activities through play and educational exercises. Emphasis is placed on the significance of role-playing games and creative projects in forming preschoolers' initial professional interests. Recommendations are provided for engaging parents and creating conditions that help identify children's inclinations toward different types of activities.

**Keywords:** early career guidance, preschool education, professional interests, role-playing games, personal development, work activities.

### INTRODUCTION

Career guidance is often viewed as a component of older students' education; however, the foundations of professional interests can be laid as early as preschool age. During this period, children actively explore the world around them, forming initial perceptions of various professions. Early career guidance helps foster a positive attitude toward work activities and enhances cognitive interests.

#### Psychological Features of Preschoolers' Perceptions of Professions

Preschoolers perceive professions as a set of actions and attributes. A playful approach to learning allows them to imagine themselves in the roles of various professionals, fostering curiosity and cognitive interest. For instance, when a child plays "doctor" or "builder," they begin to grasp the essence and significance of that profession. Providing children with visual aids, such as tools, toys, costumes, and miniature models, is essential in supporting this process.

#### Play-Based Methods for Introducing Professions

Dramatic play facilitates understanding of professional roles and tasks. Games like "Store," "Hospital," or "Construction" allow children to assume roles that mimic adult actions. Role-playing games help develop communication skills and teach collaboration. Examples of such games include:

1. **Store:** The child plays the role of a salesperson, learns to interact with customers, and practices counting.
2. **Hospital:** Children learn the basics of caregiving and the importance of medical professions.
3. **Construction:** Using building sets helps children grasp basic concepts of architecture and engineering.

### **Developing Interests through Creativity and Exploration**

Creative projects provide children with opportunities to "try on" different professions. Projects can involve crafting, drawing, or building with construction sets, as in the case of construction-themed activities. Such activities help to cultivate initial interests and promote creative thinking. Involving parents in these activities allows for enhanced interaction with educators and continued support for the child's interests.

### **The Role of Educators and Parents**

In the career guidance process, the educator acts as a mentor, fostering the child's interest in work. It is important for educators to highlight the value of work and demonstrate respect for different professions. Parents can also support this interest by discussing their own jobs with their children and involving them in household tasks, thereby creating a link between education and real life.

## **CONCLUSION**

Early career guidance is a crucial aspect of preschooler personality development. Through play and creative activities, children become familiar with the world of professions, which promotes a conscious attitude toward future career choices. The roles of educators and parents in this process are to create favorable conditions for the child's interest and to introduce them to the basics of work activities.

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