RESPECTING WORK

A WORLD FULL OF WORKERS

ED U. GATOR VISITS A JOB FAIR

A JOURNALIST WHO’S ON THE BALL
It takes millions of hard-working people to run the world. It takes policemen, musicians, politicians, teachers, writers, scientists, chefs — you name it! Every type of job fills a different need, and all make valuable contributions to our lives, directly or indirectly. These may be a doctor working in China on a cure for a rare disease. You might never meet him, but his discovery may someday save the life of someone you know.

We all benefit from the people in the world who are honest and dedicated workers. A person who respects work follows through till a task is completed. He cares about the integrity and quality of his finished product. If he makes a mistake, he takes responsibility for his error. If he succeeds, he can take pride in his accomplishment. Someone who respects work does what’s expected of him, and sometimes even more!

You respect work when you complete your household chores. You respect work when you try to do the best you can in school. And when you show respect for work, the world will respect you too. You may never discover the cure for a rare disease, but if you always work hard, act responsibly and do the right thing, you will be a great success!

**ACTIVITY:**

You probably know someone who cares a lot about the work he or she does. It may be a person at your school, at your place of worship or in your community. How does this person show respect for work? What qualities about this hard worker do you admire the most?
Ed Visits a Job Fair

Hi, friends. Ed U. Gator here. This week in school, Ms. Gloria, our principal, hosted a Job Fair in the cafeteria. About 25 people from the community came to talk about the kind of work they do. We were supposed to visit the fair to get some ideas for what we might want to do when we grow up. It seemed pretty silly to me at first. I wasn't going to be working at a job for several years, so why think about it now? But you know what? It turned out to be a lot more fun than I expected.

The first person I talked to was a carpenter named Mr. Thatcher. He had all these cool tools spread out on a table, and he had brought some pieces of furniture he had built all by himself. Boy was I impressed! He had a rocker there that Gramps would've loved. I was surprised to find out how many years Mr. Thatcher studied to learn carpentry. It was a long time! But I thought to myself, 'I'd love to be able to make stuff like that!' Next I talked to Ms. Barnes, who's a firefighter at the station near our school. I had no idea there were women firefighters! She had some incredible equipment, and she showed me a video of some of her co-workers putting out a fire at an apartment house. Wow, that was pretty exciting, and frightening at the same time. While she was talking to me I thought to myself, 'I'd love to work at a job where I save people's lives!'

Next up was Mr. Reasor, the head of the downtown library. I didn't think that would be very interesting work, but then I found out how much of the library system is computerized. Mr. Reasor visits a chat room on the Internet with librarians and authors from Sweden and Russia. He said every year the system is adding newer technology. Now, that kind of job is right up my alley! Later I talked with a Ms. Waters, who started her own greeting card business, a Mr. Louis, who investigates plane crashes, and a Ms. Lincoln, who caters food to movie stars and musicians. Everywhere I turned in the Job Fair, I found fascinating people who do incredible jobs! And each of them seemed to really like their work, and were dedicated to doing the best job they could.

My head was spinning when I left. How does somebody decide what they want to be when the choices are limitless? Well, I guess I have a few more years to make up my mind.

Questions:

1) Why did the school Job Fair seem like a silly idea to Ed?
2) Who were some of the people Ed talked to, and what were their occupations?
3) What did all the Job Fair participants have in common?
4) How did Ed feel at the end of the show?
5) What kinds of jobs seem interesting to you? Where can you go to find out more about that occupation?
WHAT IT TAKES TO DO A GOOD JOB

**Directions:** You probably have an idea of some type of work that interests you. When people think about doing a particular job, they usually rely on their strengths and skills to help them decide. On the lines below, list those attributes that you believe make somebody a good worker. How many of those attributes belong to you?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Dear Mr. or Ms.

**Directions:** Using your solution to the activity above, write a short letter (just a paragraph) telling an imaginary employer why you would be the perfect person for the job.

________________________________________________________________________

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________________________________________________________________________
IN THE NEWSPAPER

Directions: When people are looking for work, they often use the classified section of the newspaper. Glance through the ads and see which occupations interest you the most. What skills are required for these jobs? Ask an adult if you need some help.

MY COMPANY IS LOOKING FOR YOU

Directions: Pretend you own a company, and you need to hire somebody to work for you. In the space below, write your own classified ad, which describes the work involved, and what you would expect from your employee.
When Felicia was four years old, her favorite thing to do was play dress-up. She had two big trunks full of old clothes. There were long dresses and short skirts, cowboy hats and barrettes, hiking boots and ballet slippers. Whatever the occasion, Felicia would arrive appropriately attired. With a little rearranging, and a lot of imagination, she could be a bride or a construction worker, an astronaut or an enchanted princess. Sometimes she would change her outfit 12 times in an afternoon, and sometimes she would wear the same one for three days straight.

Her second favorite thing was putting on fashion shows. She usually asked her mother or father to be the audience, but if they were busy Gomer, the family dog, would do. Felicia would put on some music and walk elegantly down a pretend runway (her parents expected her to stop playing dress-up when she got a little older, but she never did). She was still dressing up and doing fashion shows when she was eight, but her costumes were more elaborate and ornate. Instead of relying on old hand-me-downs, Felicia began to make her own clothes from fabric and material she found at thrift shops and garage sales. Her parents were amazed at her hard work and dedication. It was not unusual for Felicia to work on one dress for two months! On her 10th birthday, her grandmother bought her a sewing machine, and by 12, Felicia had designed and made several beautiful outfits. Soon, her mother stopped buying her clothes from the department store, because Felicia would only wear her own creations.

The other girls at school loved Felicia's clothes. One by one, they asked her to make them each a special dress or blouse. Even the teachers and the principal begged her for their own “Felicia fashions.” On certain days, the halls were filled with Felicia’s handiwork. She was thrilled! It was like one big fashion show. For months before the senior prom, anxious girls placed their orders for a “Felicia” gown.

By the time she graduated from high school, Felicia had earned enough money making clothes to rent a small storefront in the village. Word spread quickly to other towns, as Felicia’s clothes were noticed at fancy restaurants and theaters. Her designs were completely unique, and it was obvious to all admirers that they were each handmade from the highest quality materials. A magazine from New York flew a photographer down to shoot some models in Felicia’s clothes. An evening news program featured a story on this remarkable teenage designer. Before long, movie stars and other celebrities were clamoring for Felicia originals. Her store expanded, and she hired a staff of three to help her keep up with the growing demand. Felicia worked incredibly hard, and she never stopped doing the best job she could. That dedication showed in her designs, and it showed in the faces of the women who wore them proudly.

Sometimes late at night when her work was done, Felicia would reminisce fondly about a little girl in cowboy boots and a tutu, putting on fashion shows for her dog.
Barbara Walters has one of the most recognizable faces and voices in the world of television. Born in 1931, Walters began her impressive career on The Today Show program. As a “Today Girl,” Walters was expected to look pretty, but didn’t get very much on-air time. That soon changed, because Walters was extremely hard-working and dedicated. She quickly became famous for her expert interviewing skills, and grew to be one of the show’s most popular personalities. By 1974, Walters had become the show’s co-host.

In 1976, ABC offered Walters a very high salary to anchor its prestigious evening news broadcast. Walters was the first woman to attain this high-profile position. Unfortunately, the newscast was less successful than expected, and Walters was given the opportunity to produce her own special interview programs. Since the beginning, these Barbara Walters Specials have attracted huge viewer audiences. Walters has interviewed countless international celebrities from the worlds of entertainment and politics, including six former presidents. She has been honored for her diligence and professionalism with two Emmy Awards. Many feel the secret to her success has been her integrity, and her amazing ability to make the subjects of her interviews comfortable, and most important, willing to talk.

VOCABULARY:
- **Prestigious:** something that has great respect.
- **Diligence:** the ability to work hard and carefully.
TIPS

1) Many people believe “work” is only what you get paid to do. Teach your children that household chores are work, as well as school lessons. The same positive work ethic should be applied in either case. Stress the importance of doing the best you can in any endeavor and completing tasks. Hopefully, your child will feel proud of his accomplishments. You can help instill that pride by acknowledging his efforts.

2) The world needs all types of workers, from the highest paid management personnel, to people in minimum wage jobs. Workers at both levels are expected to be dedicated and responsible at their occupations, and many are. Avoid language that belittles workers in entry level positions. Everybody has to begin somewhere!

3) It’s not uncommon for people to complain about their jobs, their co-workers or their supervisors. However, try to be aware of how much time you spend talking negatively about work in front of your kids. They may get the impression that working is something to avoid at all costs.

4) Many kids grow up having very little idea of what their parents do at work. They might be more interested than you think! Fill them in on some of the details of your weekly work routine. If possible, take them with you for a visit, so they can see your positive work ethic firsthand.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Take a trip to a place where many workers contribute their efforts, like an airport, a hospital, a supermarket or a department store. Show your child how the business runs because of the cooperation of many individuals doing different tasks, and how everyone’s job is essential. For example, the department store depends on truck drivers delivering merchandise, stockers filling the shelves, counter help assisting customers, check-out people ringing up sales, maintenance personnel keeping the store clean, and managers overseeing and organizing the whole staff. Your child might be surprised to learn how many hard-working people it takes to get a job done.

RESOURCES


FAMILY PLEDGE CARD

Our family has completed the Family Page together.

______________________________
Child’s name

______________________________    ___________________
Family members:

______________________________    ___________________
______________________________    ___________________
______________________________    ___________________

School: ___________________________________

Teacher/grade: ___________________________

For more information about Project: Solution, call 726-8918 or 1-800-351-1227, ext. 8033 or 8918.