RESPECTING WORK

GETTING THE JOB DONE RIGHT

ED U. GATOR GOES TO WORK

A QUEST FOR THE PERFECT COOKIE
The world is full of workers. Greta Sullivan works at the post office, sorting mail and weighing packages. Without her work, people wouldn’t receive their cards and letters. Mike Remus works on a farm, planting and harvesting fruits and vegetables. Without his work, many folks would go hungry at meals. Su Ling works for the school system, driving a bus. Without her work, kids wouldn’t get to class on time, or home again in the afternoon! Bob Capers works at home, doing laundry, ironing, fixing meals and getting his kids ready for the day. Without his work, his house would be a mess! And you’re a worker, too, every time you sit down to do homework. Without your work, you wouldn’t learn very much!

The world depends on workers. But, it’s not enough to just do your job. It’s important that you respect your work and do it well. That means completing tasks that you begin, and it means caring about the way the finished job looks. If your job is putting all the dishes away after dinner, you would do it till every plate was stacked neatly on the shelf. Then you could be proud of your hard work! You would be showing the world how responsible and dependable you are. Respecting work means getting the job done right. And if you do your job well, and Greta, Mike, Su and Bob do their jobs well, everyone benefits!

**VOCABULARY:**
- **Sort:** to separate or arrange things.
- **Harvest:** to gather crops, fruits and vegetables.
- **Benefit:** anything that helps.

**ACTIVITY:**
Think about your day, from the time you wake up till you go to sleep. Chances are, everywhere you went, people were working. Can you name a few?
Hi, friends. Ed here. Guess what I got to do this week? I got to go to work with my dad. Wednesday, the power went off at our school and classes were canceled, so Dad took me with him. It’s funny, I never really knew what Dad did until I spent the whole day at his job. Dad’s a Swampcologist, which is a big word that means he tests the water in swamps to make sure it’s not polluted. I wasn’t even sure what polluted meant, until he showed me a sample of water that had purple and orange globs floating in it. It was yucky! Dad’s job is to find out where the gross stuff is coming from, and to try to clean up the mess. We drove around in a cool white van all day, taking samples and dropping them off at the laboratory. We had to wear big black boots called galoshes, and funny pants so we didn’t get our clothes wet. Even though I was just hanging out with Dad, I felt like I was working, too. It was fun! I also learned a bunch about swamp creatures and plants.

I was glad when lunchtime came, because I was hungry and tired. Dad works hard at his job. Before lunch we took 18 water samples. That was a lot of walking and dipping in swamp goop! After our break, we spent the afternoon cleaning trash out of a swamp near our school. It’s amazing what people throw in the water! We found cans, bottles, gum wrappers, magazines, rusty nails, an old tire and a pair of tennis shoes. It took us four hours to gather it all up! But when we were done, the swamp looked a whole lot better. I was proud of our accomplishment. Dad really likes his job, and he seems to care a great deal about keeping the swamps clean. Who knows, someday I might grow up to be a Swampcologist, too!

QUESTIONS:

1) Why did Ed go to work with his dad?

2) What kind of work does Ed’s dad do? What are some of his job responsibilities?

3) Why was Ed glad when lunchtime came?

4) What kinds of things did Ed and his Dad find in the swamp?

5) How did their hard work make a difference? How did Ed feel about their accomplishment?

6) How does Ed’s Dad feel about his job?
## WHEN I GROW UP I’D LIKE TO BE A . . .

**Directions:** Below is a list of jobs that someone needs to do. Circle the ones that seem interesting to you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>doctor</th>
<th>volunteer</th>
<th>cook</th>
<th>firefighter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>librarian</td>
<td>waiter or waitress</td>
<td>farmer</td>
<td>dancer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>taxi driver</td>
<td>scientist</td>
<td>postal worker</td>
<td>crossing guard</td>
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<tr>
<td>pilot</td>
<td>astronaut</td>
<td>actor</td>
<td>politician</td>
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<tr>
<td>musician</td>
<td>dentist</td>
<td>ambulance driver</td>
<td>author</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>teacher</td>
<td>news reporter</td>
<td>police officer</td>
<td>sanitation worker</td>
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<tr>
<td>other</td>
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## MY JOB RESPONSIBILITIES

**Directions:** Okay, pretend you’re all grown up, and you’re doing one of the interesting jobs you checked above. What kinds of job responsibilities would you have? Make a list of them below, or draw a picture of yourself doing that type of work.
IN THE NEWSPAPER

Directions: When people look for a job, they often read the classified section of the newspaper. Look through the ads with an adult, and see how many different kinds of jobs you can find. Do you know anyone who does the work you read about?

WHAT IS THE COLOR OF WORK?

Directions: Below is a drawing of a boy and his mother working on a project. Color it in with crayons or markers. Can you describe in a few words what they’re doing?
ne Saturday, when Mandy visited her grandpa, he served her three big scoops of strawberry ice cream in a beautiful red bowl. Mandy loved the way the bowl felt in her hands, and the ice cream was incredibly delicious! "What kind of ice cream is this?" she asked, licking a strawberry drip from her chin.

"Oh, I made it myself," said her grandpa, getting up from the table. "I made that bowl, too!" Mandy couldn't believe it. Scrumptious homemade ice cream in a lovely homemade bowl! She thought her grandpa was about the coolest person she had ever met! While her brother and sister played outside with their cousins, Mandy followed her Grandpa around the house like a puppy dog.

After awhile, he took her down to his art studio in the basement. The shelves were filled with gorgeous plates, cups, candle holders, and lamps. "You made all this stuff?" she asked. Her Grandpa nodded. Then she said softly, "Could you teach me how?"

"It's not easy," Grandpa said, picking up a green and blue flower vase. "It takes many years of patience and practice to do this job right. You have to be extremely dedicated. Are you willing to work that hard?"

"Oh, yes!" Mandy exclaimed, "When can I start?"

"Right away if you want," he answered. "You will be my apprentice!" Grandpa began by teaching Mandy about clay. She loved squeezing it with her hands. He showed her how he removed the coarse particles so it would be smooth and easier to mold. He let her try the potter's wheel, and the spinning clay tickled her hands. They fired up the kiln, and Grandpa put in a bowl that he had finished the night before. All the smells and textures were so wonderful, thought Mandy. She felt like she had traveled back in time 200 years!

Every weekend, Mandy studied pottery with her grandpa. Her first attempts were rough and crude and they frequently broke, but each day she learned a little bit more, and each piece turned out a little bit better. Grandpa was proud of Mandy for sticking with it. "You are a devoted apprentice," he said late one Sunday afternoon. "I admire your perseverance. I have no doubt that you'll be a great artist someday!"

After a few months, Mandy was able to work in the studio all by herself. Since she was very careful and responsible, Grandpa trusted her with his equipment and supplies. On her 17th birthday, Grandpa bought Mandy her very own kiln in appreciation for her hard work and dedication. Soon after, the local library asked Mandy and her grandfather to display some of their favorite pieces. When the show was over, seven of her creations had been bought.

"See," said Grandpa, as they loaded up the car to drive home, "learning pottery has made you very happy. Now other people can take pleasure from your accomplishments. You have been a loyal student, and now you are a fine artist. Good work!"
When Christie Hauck was a kid, he loved cookies. As a grown-up, making delicious cookies became his hobby. Hauck experimented with different recipes, and assembled a variety of tasty ingredients. He worked hard to develop a unique cookie that would taste like the ones he remembered from his childhood, but that would also be different, and better than the ones people could buy in a store. Finally, after years of dedication, he was satisfied with his culinary creation. It didn't take long for the rest of Nashville to appreciate his talents. His cookies were named the best in the city, 1993, 1994, 1995 and 1996! The Christie Cookie company is especially famous for its chocolate chip, oatmeal raisin and white chocolate with macadamia nuts cookies. (YUM)

What started out as a whim, has become a worldwide phenomenon. Today Christie Cookies are ordered by people all over the planet, by mail, by phone, by fax and by the Internet. If Hauck hadn't worked as hard as he did to find the perfect recipe, his dream of an international cookie company would have been half-baked! But luckily for cookie lovers everywhere, Hauck remained dedicated to his job. Christie Hauck is a great example of what a person can do by respecting work!

VOCABULARY:
Assembled: put together.
Ingredients: any of the things that a mixture is made of.
Culinary: having to do with cooking.
Whim: a sudden thought or wish to do something.
Phenomenon: an unusual or remarkable person or thing.
TIPS

1) Many people think that “work” is the only thing we do for which we are paid. Teach your children that household chores are work, and so are school lessons. The same positive work ethic should be applied in either case. Stress the importance of doing the best you can do, and completing tasks. Hopefully, your child will feel proud of his accomplishments. Help instill that pride by acknowledging his efforts.

2) The world needs all kinds 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 people in entry level positions. Everybody’s got to start somewhere!

3) It’s not uncommon for people to complain about their jobs, their co-workers or their supervisors. Try to be aware however, how much time you spend talking negatively about your 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 may be a lot more interested than you think! Fill them in on some of the details of your working week 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 people doing different types of work, and how everyone’s job is essential. For example, the department store depends on truck drivers delivering merchandise, stockers filling the shelves, counter help answering questions, check-out people ringing up sales, maintenance people keeping the store clean, and managers organizing the personnel. Your child might be surprised to learn how many people it takes to get a job done.

RESOURCES