



Family & Mentor Conversation Starters about Nebraska Career Readiness Standards

Families and mentors are important to preparing students for career success. Discussions should start at a young age. The following skills are essential in all careers, workplaces, and school, too!

Career Readiness Standards	Suggested Conversation Topics
<p>1. Applies appropriate academic and technical skills</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share information about your job, job title, daily activities, and responsibilities. What are your favorite and most challenging parts about work? • Share past work experiences starting from 1st part-time job and describe what skills were needed for each workplace. • Periodically ask your student to describe the abilities and activities of the person they would like to become. • Share the requirements of education and training in your job. • Introduce your student to someone who works in a career field of their interest.
<p>2. Communicates effectively and appropriately</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Point out how reading and writing skills are utilized in the workplace. • Reflect on examples of customer service experienced in daily life. • Coach Student on the connection between school and work. • Discuss appropriate and inappropriate time for cell phone use. • Talk about use of manners, eye contact, and body language to communicate a positive image.
<p>3. Contributes to employer and community success</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Converse about why attendance, promptness, and dependability is important in work and school • Generate a variety of reasons and ways to add positive influences to life at home, school and in the community. • Describe what personal responsibility looks like throughout your daily schedule.
<p>4. Makes sense of problems and perseveres in solving them</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support students to solve problems on their own even if they need to struggle with it a while. • Identify typical types of problem solving associated with different kinds of jobs/careers. • Investigate what kinds of problems in the world your student would like to solve. • Assure student that setbacks and even failures are an opportunity to discover the new solutions.

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Career Readiness Standards

Suggested Conversation Topics

5. Uses critical thinking



- Talk about how your student's decisions affect themselves and others too.
- Consider multiple perspectives of ideas and issues in the news.
- Identify helpful strategies to deal with expected and unexpected change.
- Support student to understand the cause and effect of their actions.

6. Demonstrates innovation and creativity



- Encourage imagination and brainstorming ideas
- Emphasize how trying new things is good at all ages.
- Explore new ways to complete tasks or chores.
- Together invent new things or ideas and try them out.

7. Models ethical leadership & effective management



- Identify how to be a positive leader at home, school, and in the workplaces.
- Investigate helpful ways to motivate yourself and others to complete goals.
- Talk about ways to be a leader regardless whether or not one has a leadership title.
- Draw attention to leadership characteristics of respect, dependability, and empathy for others.

8. Works productively in teams & demonstrates cultural competence



- Discuss how each role on a team or within a student organization is important.
- Coach your student on skills to resolve conflicts on their own.
- Review many different ways of how to be respectful of all cultures and people in our community.

9. Utilizes technology



- Model and set boundaries for appropriate use of technology.
- Talk to your student about how technology is utilized for work.
- Show your student how to use technology to be productive.
- Talk to your student about how they can establish a positive and safe on-line presence.
- Follow your student on social media and talk about what they post on-line.

10. Manages personal career development



- Identify and set a goal, related to a career readiness skill.
- Support your student in getting a part-time job.
- Imagine what it would be like to own your own business.
- Prioritize careers with the best-fit to your student first, then search for college/ training appropriate to career goal.

11. Attends to personal and financial wellbeing



- Talk about financial goals and how to save for them.
- Provide advice on managing a checking account.
- Identify a healthy lifestyle including nutrition, exercise, and regular sleep.
- Suggest and practice strategies to reduce stress.
- Define and encourage healthy supportive relationships for your student.