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!

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| **1. Applies appropriate academic and technical skills** | • 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. |
| **2. Communicates effectively and appropriately** | • 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. |
| **3. Contributes to employer and community success** | • 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, |
| **4. Makes sense of problems and perseveres in solving them** | • 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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| 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.  |