Career Exploration: Send Your Friend to Work Day

PURPOSE:
It's important for students to explore different occupations in order to learn ***what's out there***. Students can't always take a day off of school to shadow someone at his/her job and conversely, some jobs may not allow a job-shadower. So, why not encourage your students to do the next best thing – send a "friend" for a day of job-shadowing!

The friend that each student creates will go to work with a person (helper) of his/her choosing to spend the day "watching" this person work. Students will learn about their helpers' jobs by talking with them and by reading the answers to the ***Helper Questions: Send Your Friend to Work Day***. Have students use the ***Timeline: Send Your Friend to Work Day*** to keep their projects on track.

INSTRUCTIONS
Give your students the ***Timeline: Send Your Friend to Work Day.*** Provide an overview of the project and explain each of the 6 steps. Build enthusiasm by leading a discussion on the creative and learning possibilities.

STEPS:
1. Provide your students with a variety of art materials. Using these materials, students will create a friend. This friend can be anything - an animal that talks, a robot, a model of themselves, a creature, etc. These friends may be extremely simple or quite elaborate depending on time and interest. The students should name their friends.

2. Students will talk to their network (parents, neighbors, other relatives) to find someone who is willing to take their friend to work. The more this person can get into the spirit of the day, the more fun the student will have and the more he/she will learn. The helper must, at the very least, be willing to take good care of the friend and answer the questions provided.

3. Students will send their friends to work. If possible, it would be fun to have some photos taken of the students' friends at work, watching or even "participating" in the day.

4. The students will bring the helpers' answers to the questions to school in order to write a report. Help your students decipher handwriting, if necessary. Remind them to end their reports by stating their own interest, or lack of interest, in the occupation. What are their reasons?

5. Students will include an illustration of their friends at work to share with the class during their presentations.

6. Students will make their presentations. He will introduce his friend to the class (be sure to have the friend in school on the day of the presentation), present the salient points about his friend's day at work, and show his picture of their friend doing the job or watching the helper do his job.

Timeline: Send Your Friend to Work Day

Use this career exploration activity to learn about an occupation. Have loads of fun!

1 Make a Friend

Use clay, pipe cleaners, paper, fabric, rocks, papier maché, or any other medium that strikes your fancy to make a model of your friend. Give your friend a name.

My friend's name is: _____



Date completed:

_____
(date I completed making my model friend)

2 Choose Your Work Day Helper

Choose someone in your family, or a close family friend, who can take your friend to work for the day. This person needs to agree to two things:

1. To take very good care of your friend
2. To answer the attached page of questions



My helper is:

_____
(helper's name)

3 Send Your Friend to Work

Send your friend and the questions to work with your helper. If your helper is willing, he or she might take a photo or draw a picture of your friend at work!



My friend will go to work on:

_____
(date scheduled to go to work)

4 Write a Report

Bring your helper's answers to the questions back to school. In paragraph form, use your helper's answers to write a report about your friend's day at work.
Finish your report by stating whether you would like to do this job someday. Why or why not?.

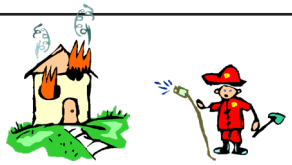


My report will be completed by:

_____
(completion date for report)

5 Draw an Illustration

Draw an illustration to accompany your report and then write a caption on it. Your illustration might show your friend and your helper in the work environment. It might show people your friend met during the day. It might illustrate your friend using the tools of the job.



My illustration will be completed by:

_____
(completion date for illustration)

6 Make a Presentation

Present your friend, your illustration, and your report to the class.

I am scheduled to present on:

_____
(date of presentation)

Helper Questions: Send Your Friend to Work Day



Thank you so much for taking my friend to work today and for answering the questions below.
If you are uncomfortable with any of the questions, please leave them blank.

Name of Employer: _____ **Job Title:** _____

Work Days: _____ **Work Hours:** _____ **to** _____

1. Tell me about your job duties. What do you do all day? Do you use specific tools in your work?

2. Tell me a little about your work environment. (Do you work in an office? a plant? a hospital? outside? with people? alone?)

3. How much education and/or training do you need to be qualified for your job?

4. What is appropriate dress for your job?

5. What personality trait(s) should a person have in order to do your job well?

6. What do you like most about your job? Least?

Please use the back of this paper to add anything more about your job that would be important for me to know.