

# FAMILY GUIDE TO K-3 CAREER STUDIES

## Elementary School Career Studies IS NOT

Tracking students into pathways based on predetermined criteria.

Requiring students to choose one career.

Choosing a career instead of college.

## Elementary School Career Studies IS

Encouraging curiosity and exploration of their self and the world around them.

Providing opportunities to identify interests, aptitudes, and values and how these connect to careers.

Recognizing that almost all careers require ongoing education and experience.

## Why career studies in elementary school?

Elementary career studies emphasizes career awareness and exploration – ***not career choice***. Research has shown that career interventions at the elementary school level allow children to become more self-aware of their skills, abilities and interests and how those traits relate to future career goals.

## What are elementary school students learning?

The [\*Kentucky Academic Standards \(KAS\) for Career Studies\*](#) outline the minimum content Kentucky students should learn within each grade band.

The *KAS for Career Studies* are organized by three domains:

### Essential Skills

These standards address skills necessary for success in the workplace, e.g., adaptability, diligence, initiative, knowledge, reliability, staying drug-free and effective communication.

### Careers

These standards guide students to discover personal interests, skills and values as they explore Career Clusters.

### Financial Literacy

These standards address topics such as credit, debt, saving, investing, and the connection between careers, education and income.