## CAREERS FOR THOSE WHO LOVE CHILDREN

### Summary:
This lesson will expose students to the vast diversity in careers that involve kids. They may discover that they have what it takes to become a role model and make a difference in a young child’s life.

### Lesson Objectives:
*Students will be able to:*
- Understand the vast diversity of careers that involve children
- Discover several child-related careers that they are personally interested in

### Curriculum Links:
**Family & Consumer Sciences**

### Grade Levels:
6 - 12

### Time Needed:
50 minutes

### Resources Needed:
- Access to [MSChoices.com](https://MSChoices.com)
- Access to alternative sources of information on child-related careers
- Copy of *Careers for Those Who Love Children Worksheet* for each student

### Computer Use:
Yes

### ASCA Mindsets & Behaviors:

#### Mindsets:
- NA

#### Behaviors:

**Learning Strategies**
- 2. Demonstrate creativity
- 4. Apply self-motivation and self-direction to learning
- 5. Apply media and technology skills
- 9. Gather evidence and consider multiple perspectives to make informed decisions

**Self-Management Skills**
- 2. Demonstrate self-discipline and self-control
- 3. Demonstrate ability to work independently
- 7. Demonstrate effective coping skills when faced with a problem

**Social Skills**
- 1. Use effective oral and written communication skills and listening skills
Overview:
Selecting a career that involves the care of children gives many people enormous satisfaction. These careers are highly regarded because the welfare of our children ranks at the top of the list in terms of importance.

There is such a variety of careers in this field that those who elect to work with children may find themselves working in their own homes, in a school, at a recreational facility, in a health-care institution, or even in the arts and entertainment industry.

This lesson will expose students to the vast diversity in careers that involve kids. They may discover that they have what it takes to become a role model and make a difference in a young child's life. After students have researched and expressed an interest in a particular career, a job shadow could be a very worthwhile experience.

Teacher Preparation:
1. Access MSChoices.com and familiarize yourself with the Career Planning section.
2. Check to see what other reference options or materials are at your disposal. If your school has a career center coordinator who can help you, go for it!

Activity:
1. Distribute the worksheet to students. Elicit responses to the introductory questions and stimulate a short discussion as students briefly share their thoughts and feelings.
2. Talk about the career categories listed on the worksheet and "brainstorm" your way through this section with students, recording careers for each of the categories listed. If students cannot think of careers for some of the categories, have them leave these sections blank and fill them in while completing the next step in this lesson.
3. Have students access MSChoices.com and click on the Career Planning tab. Directions for accessing career articles are on the worksheet. Students will first check out several different child-care careers, then select one to explore and complete the worksheet.

Enhancements:
- An interesting follow-up to this activity would be a panel discussion presented by four or five speakers who work with children in different capacities. Names of volunteers who are willing to share their experiences with students are available in many school districts.

Wrap Up:
- A discussion following the research where students share their findings with each other can be very productive, especially if you ask students to explore a variety of careers.
Date: __________________ Name: ____________________________

Do you like kids? If so, how much do you like them? Are you patient? Which appeals to you more, teaching them or tending to their health and well-being? Would you like to make a difference in a child's life? How do you feel about older children? Are you aware that there are literally hundreds of career opportunities waiting for those who want to work with and for children?

PART 1:
The following career areas represent some of the ways you can work with children. Try to think of at least one career in each category. You may fill in blank spaces once you access MSChoices.com and begin looking for careers that involve some aspect of child care.

Careers in child-care centers:
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

Careers in your home:
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

Careers in their home:
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

Careers requiring teaching, not only in school:
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

Careers as health-care professionals:
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
Careers in health care (requiring less education):

Careers in sports and recreation:

Careers safeguarding the welfare of children:

Careers involving children’s literature:

Careers tending to the social welfare of children:

Careers in the arts and entertainment field:
PART 2:
Select one career upon which you will focus. To find a career, follow these steps:

1. Click on the Career Planning tab, then choose Explore Careers
2. Browse the following sections to see what child-care careers you can find:
   • Career Clusters: Health Science, Human Services and Education & Training
   • Enter keywords such as child care in the Search box under SEARCH CAREERS
   • Alphabetical List (if you already have a career in mind and want to locate it)
3. Once you have selected a career, click on it and read the article. Notice the tabs on the left (beginning with What They Do) outlining highlights in the article. Use them to answer the following questions:

1. The career I am exploring is ________________________________

2. Give a brief description and list some of the duties this career entails:

   __________________________________________________________

   __________________________________________________________

   __________________________________________________________

   __________________________________________________________

   __________________________________________________________

3. How much education is needed for this career?

   __________________________________________________________

   __________________________________________________________

   __________________________________________________________

4. If you think you might like to pursue this career, save it to Your Portfolio.