

# WHEN I GROW UP...

by Lucia Kemp Henry

Take a fresh approach to career studies with these activities. A reproducible gameboard, student-made booklet, and worksheets are designed to minimize your preparation time.

## School Careers

Although they observe school personnel daily, students are frequently unaware of their job titles or exactly what they do. Take photographs of the school staff including the nurse, cook, janitor, secretary, bus driver, teacher's aide, and principal. Post the photographs on a bulletin board. Under each photo, post a brief job description. (For example: I am the school nurse. I take care of sick children.) Then ask school personnel to speak to your students about their jobs and give tours of their workstations.

## "I Can Work Outdoors" Booklet

Creating this booklet gives youngsters an opportunity to picture themselves in several outdoor-oriented careers. Prepare for the activity by duplicating pages 7–12 on white construction paper for each student. On pages 7–11, cut on the dotted lines with an X-acto knife. Staple each set of booklet pages between colorful covers. To the inside back cover of each booklet, attach a student's picture so that his face shows through the opening in each page. (If pictures are not available, each student may draw his face on the inside back cover of the booklet.)

Discuss each occupation and its environment before having students color the figure and background. Have students color and attach the corresponding pieces from page 12 to complete each scene. (Or provide a variety of magazine cutouts for students to use.)

## Let's Go! Lotto

Focus on transportation-related careers with this lotto game. On tagboard, duplicate the lotto pieces and gameboard on page 6. Have each student cut out the patterns and match the vehicle cards to the occupations represented on the gameboard. Then have students discuss other careers that are dependent on vehicles.



## Career Chorus

To introduce service-oriented careers, have a sing-along! Sing these verses to the tune of "Farmer in the Dell," and then have students create more verses.

### Verse 1:

A farmer works his fields.  
A farmer works his fields.  
Hi, Ho, the derry-o,  
A farmer works his fields.

### Chorus:

There are so many jobs  
That you might want to do.  
Take time and you will find a job  
That's just right for you.

### Verse 2:

A dentist cleans our teeth.

### Repeat Chorus

### Verse 3:

A teacher works at school.

### Repeat Chorus

### Verse 4:

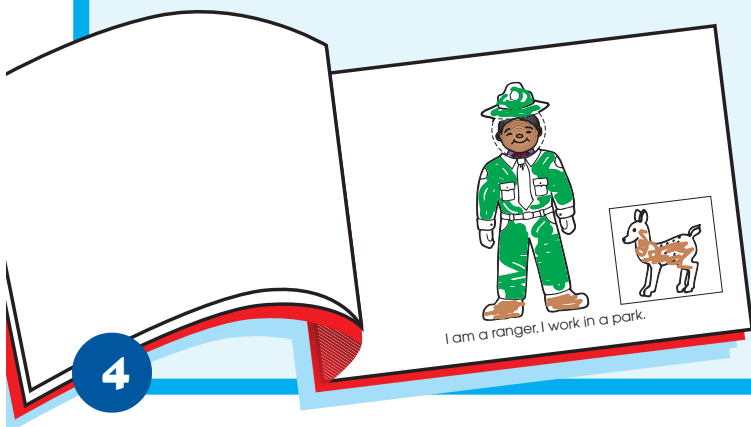
A barber cuts our hair.

### Repeat Chorus

### Verse 5:

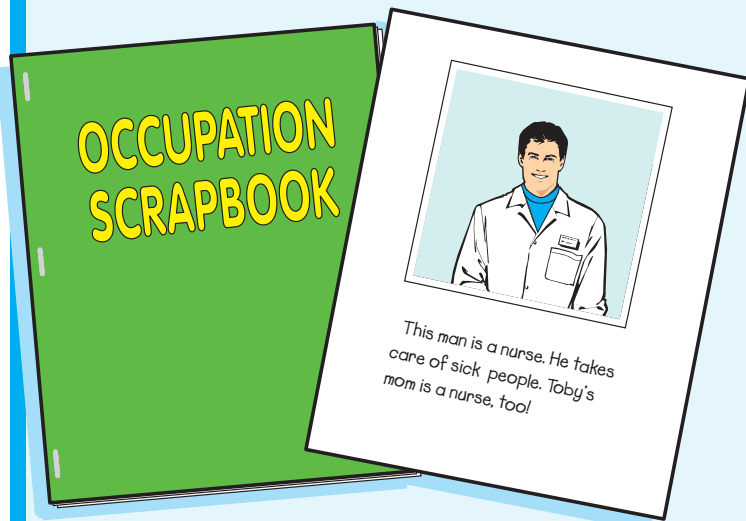
A waiter serves us food.

### Repeat Chorus



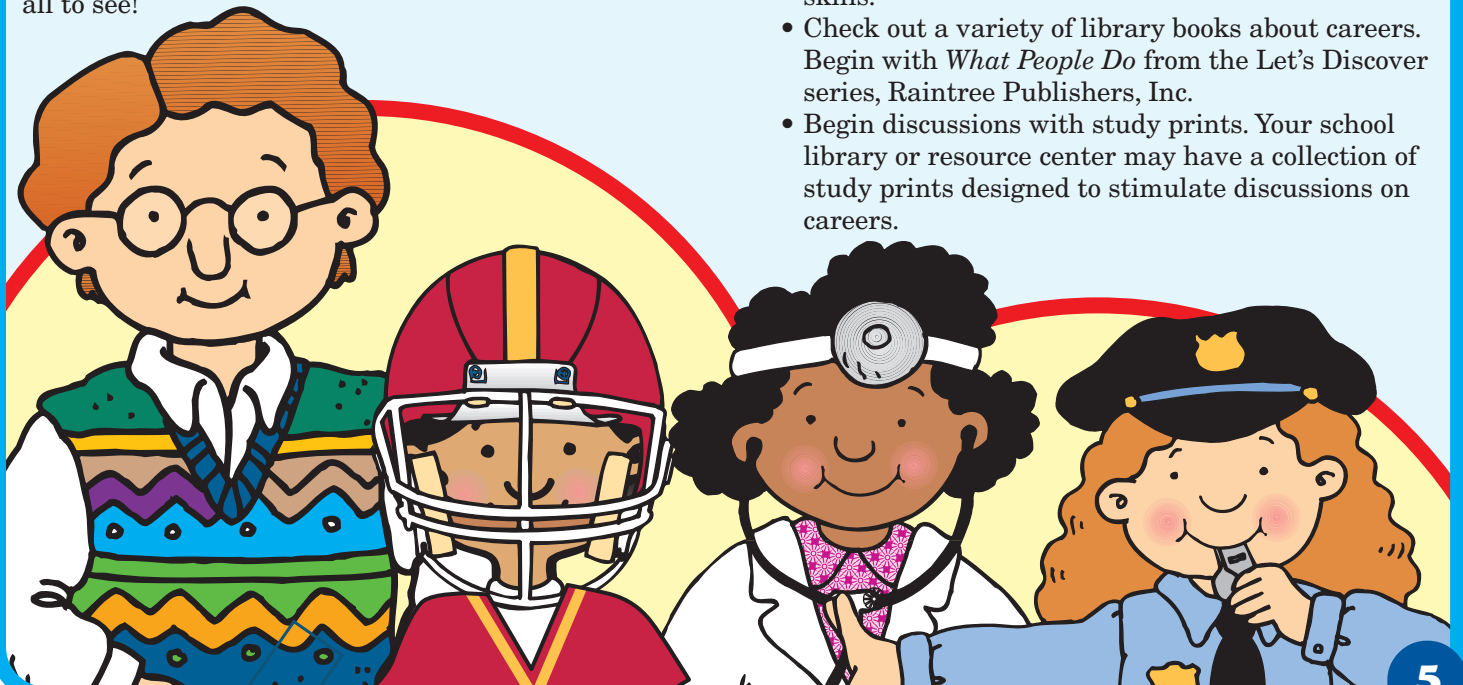
## Occupation Scrapbook

Give children a chance to learn about careers and to share their knowledge with others. Have students clip magazine pictures of people at work. Discuss the clippings and determine the occupations associated with them. Compile the pictures in a class scrapbook and have students dictate sentences about each occupation. Store the scrapbook in your reading area and invite students to look at it during spare time.



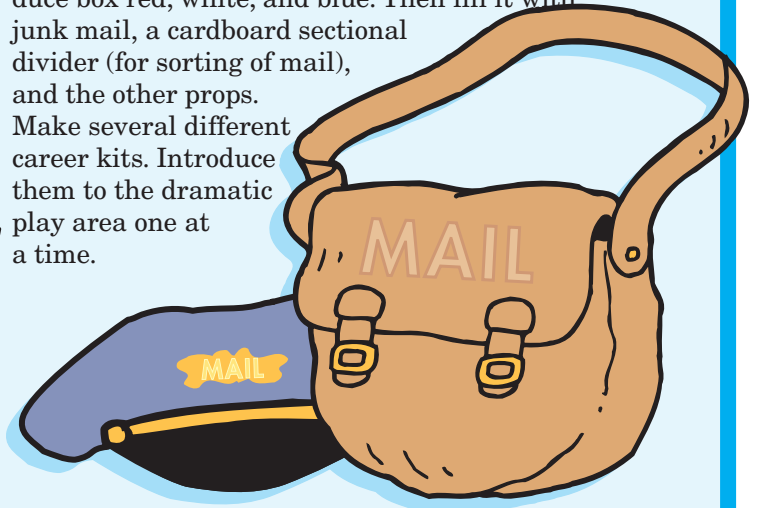
## “When I Grow Up...” Bulletin Board

Have students illustrate the jobs they find most appealing. (Discuss a wide range of career options.) Then ask students to draw large pictures of themselves in the careers of their choice. (Or have students select and glue magazine pictures to construction paper.) Then write the sentence at the bottom of each child’s picture as he completes this statement: “I want to be a...” Post these portraits on a bulletin board for all to see!



## Career Kits

Gather props to encourage role play of various careers. From postal workers, for example, you might borrow an old mailbag, a postman’s hat and jacket, a rubber stamp, and a zip-code book. Paint a sturdy, produce box red, white, and blue. Then fill it with junk mail, a cardboard sectional divider (for sorting of mail), and the other props. Make several different career kits. Introduce them to the dramatic play area one at a time.



## Check Your Resources

Use the career-education resources that are available to you.

- Take field trips that will give students insights into career opportunities. Be sure to include visits to a local fire station, police department, hospital, grocery store, dentist’s office, beauty salon, park, library, bank, orchard, mall, or farm.
- Show films about careers. Children especially love to see films that tell how things are made and about the people who make them.
- Invite guest speakers into your classroom. People with interesting hobbies or talents make great teachers—especially if they demonstrate their skills.
- Check out a variety of library books about careers. Begin with *What People Do* from the Let’s Discover series, Raintree Publishers, Inc.
- Begin discussions with study prints. Your school library or resource center may have a collection of study prints designed to stimulate discussions on careers.