Hats Off to Careers!

Objectives

- Increase awareness of world of work
- Increase awareness of career options
- Practice researching careers

Explore Careers

Audience: Awareness
Length: Multiple sessions of 30-45 minutes each

Materials Needed

- Art supplies
- Large index cards
- Internet to access career information websites, or print resources (use 1-3 resources)
  - CareerOneStop: [www.careeronestop.org/ExploreCareers/ExploreCareers.aspx](http://www.careeronestop.org/ExploreCareers/ExploreCareers.aspx)
  - ISEEK: [www.iseek.org](http://www.iseek.org)
  - MCIS: [http://mncis.intocareers.org](http://mncis.intocareers.org) {Subscription required}
  - Minnesota Programs of Study: [www.mnprogramsofstudy.org](http://www.mnprogramsofstudy.org)
  - O*NET: [www.onetonline.org/find/](http://www.onetonline.org/find/)
  - Occupational Outlook Handbook publication (optional)

Instructions

This is a fun activity for elementary school-age children.

1. Have students select a career using a career information resource.

2. Have students make a hat that represents a specific career or a hat that could be worn by a worker in that career.
   a. Instructor can make a template first for students to copy.

3. Have students make a large index card describing the occupation and which hat represents that occupation.
   a. Brief description of career duties or skills used
   b. Education requirements to enter occupation
   c. Work environment
   d. What the students likes about this career

4. Students can present their hats and career information. All hats and information cards can be displayed.
Evaluation of Learning

- Grade on completion of hat.
- Grade career research.
- Career research can be added to Individualized Learning Plan or portfolio.

Enhanced Learning

- Have students create tools or equipment used on the job.
- Have students take photographs of people working in different careers and give a report on those careers.
- Have students do informational interview with people who work in their career of interest.
- Have students discuss why the hats were designed the way they were — including the history of the hats.
- Invite guest speakers to come to class with their uniforms and work equipment and talk to the class about their career (example: firefighter, chef, medical technician, construction manager, etc.).