



KAPOW PLUS: After-School Career Awareness Activities

After-school programs provide a range of activities for students, from helping with homework to playing games. While these activities are invaluable, have you ever wondered if they could be more "focused"? KAPOW has designed a menu of activities, "KAPOW PLUS", which **introduces students to the world of work**. Today, few children have a clear understanding of what it means to have a job or what the workplace is like. While most children have been to a hospital, for example, do they know that there are more than doctors and nurses who work there—that a hospital needs security guards, lawyers, maintenance workers and accountants? Do they know being a lawyer or a security guard requires some similar skills such as communicating effectively, making decisions and dressing appropriately? Have they thought about what type of job they might like to have one day? Do they know that they can be anything they want to be?

The "KAPOW PLUS" packet can turn an after-school activity into an informal, career awareness lesson. In the spirit of the KAPOW program, each activity addresses a particular work-related theme, is age-appropriate, and most importantly, **is FUN!**

The seven work-related themes include:

- Job Awareness**
- Self-awareness**
- Positive Work Habits and Attitudes**
- Teamwork**
- Overcoming Bias and Stereotype**
- Communication**
- Decision Making**

ACTIVITY ideas include playing a game of "Twenty Questions" in which the "Person" is a Telephone Operator (Job Awareness), watching a movie like *The Mighty Ducks* (Teamwork), or planning a party with a budget (Decision Making). Visiting a local workplace is also a great way to provide an educational, fun, and first-hand look at the world of work. A worksite visit idea might be having students research something on the internet (Communication), or greet visitors at Reception (Positive Work Habits and Attitudes). There are also suggestions for **CONVERSATION STARTERS** which can prompt discussion about career-related topics at any time such as discussing the importance of teamwork after playing a game of basketball. And of course, students can always read a book from the provided **BIBLIOGRAPHY**, which lists books that address each work-related theme.

"KAPOW PLUS" is a tool that can act as the starting point for other activities or conversations that can help demonstrate to young people what the world of work is like and what they need to do in order to get there.

For more information please contact the National Child Labor Committee at 212-840-1801 or visit our web site at www.KAPOW.org.