# Guiding Teens' Career Choices

This playbook describes a structured approach to assist teenagers in exploring their interests and making informed decisions about their future education and career paths.

### Step 1: Interest Assessment

Have the teen take one or more career interest assessments to identify potential fields of interest. These tools can help clarify what industries or job roles might be a good fit based on their preferences and strengths.

### Step 2: Research Careers

Encourage the teen to research identified careers from the interest assessments. They should look into job descriptions, requirements, expected salary, and future job outlook. The aim is to gather enough information to understand what each career path entails.

### Step 3: Goal Setting

Work with the teen to set short-term and long-term educational and career goals. Goals should be specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART).

### Step 4: Explore Education

Investigate post-secondary education options that align with the teen's career goals. Consider different types of institutions, such as 4-year universities, community colleges, trade schools, and vocational programs, to find the best fit.

### Step 5: Experience Work

Suggest the teen gain hands-on experience through internships, part-time jobs, or volunteering in areas related to their career interests. Real-world experience can provide valuable insights and connections.

### Step 6: Decision Making

Assist the teen in making informed decisions about their career and education path by comparing the pros and cons of each option. Consider factors like financial feasibility, location, support services, and personal values.

### Step 7: Action Plan

Help the teen develop an action plan that outlines the steps to achieve their education and career goals. Include timelines, resources needed, and milestones to track progress.

### Step 8: Reflection

Encourage regular reflection on the teen's aspirations and experiences. Adjust their goals and action plan as needed to accommodate changing interests or unforeseen challenges.

## General Notes

### Parental Involvement

Encourage parents or guardians to support the teenager through this process by providing encouragement, helping with research, and discussing options.

### Professional Guidance

If possible, connect the teen with a career counselor, mentor, or advisor who can offer additional guidance and perspective on making these important decisions.