Kindergarten Explores Careers

A Literature Focus Unit

By

Becca Flanders

FEATURED SELECTION:

What Do People Do All Day?
By Richard Scarry

Publisher: Random House, 1968

Synopsis of Story: This is a classic book that children have loved for over 30 years. It tells the story of many different jobs that adults do. The illustrations are sure to capture the hearts of young readers. This is a book that can be read many times over and still uncover new things for the reader each time. It's a great book for introducing children to the concepts of careers.
**RELATED MATERIALS:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Book</th>
<th>Gardner's Cat.</th>
<th>Publisher Info</th>
<th>Relation to Selection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Meet the Orchestra" /></td>
<td>Musical</td>
<td>Harcourt Children's Books, 1995</td>
<td>This is a beautifully written story that introduces the instruments of the orchestra to young children. Each page introduces a new instrument with a beautiful watercolor painting of an animal playing that instrument. The descriptions of the instruments and the sounds they make are fantastic. Here is how the book describes the sound of the clarinet, &quot;its cool tones melt in your ears just like ice cream melts in your mouth.&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**I Stink**

![I Stink](image)

| Bodily Kinesthetic | HarperCollins, 2006 | This is the story of a garbage truck's life in the garbage trucks own words! Basically, this vehicle is obnoxious, smelly and downright gross. But this book also reminds us that we should be thankful for garbage trucks because we would be living in piles and piles of trash if it weren't for him! |

**Genre:** Fiction, Fantasy

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<tr>
<td><em>The Snake Scientist</em></td>
<td>Logical</td>
<td>Houghton Mifflin,</td>
<td>This book tells the story of a scientist that studies snakes. It is a great book for kids that love nature and are interested in science. It relates to the selection because it addresses careers for people who love the outdoors and are logical and great observers of details.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By Sy Montgomery</td>
<td>Mathematical/Naturalist</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>A Light in the Attic</em></td>
<td>Linguistic, Intrapersonal</td>
<td>Harper Collins,</td>
<td>This is a great book to introduce careers in writing. Children are naturally drawn to Silverstein's goofy poems. A discussion of Silverstein's life and the careers of other authors can be included.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By Shel Silverstien</td>
<td></td>
<td>1981</td>
<td></td>
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### Jobs People Do
By Christopher Maynard

- **Publisher Info:** Penguin Books, 1997
- **Relation to Selection:** This book introduces many different jobs in all kinds of areas. It includes colorful pictures. This book is an extension of the featured selection.
- **Genre:** Non fiction,

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<tr>
<td>Careers for Me Junior</td>
<td>Intrapersonal</td>
<td>CareerKids</td>
<td>This is an great book to help kids assess their own interests and strengths. It is designed for kindergarten students. It includes pictures of activities so children can circle the ones they like. It isn’t designed to “pidgeonhole” kids at a young age, just help they explore their interests!</td>
</tr>
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**Genre:** Informational Resource
Great photographs of real people working help kids understand the concept of a career. This book continues the process of helping kids understand the variety of jobs kids can do.

**Genre**: Non-Fiction

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<tr>
<td>Work</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>Lothrop, 1998</td>
<td><strong>Great photographs of real people working help kids understand the concept of a career. This book continues the process of helping kids understand the variety of jobs kids can do.</strong></td>
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<td>Chicken Man</td>
<td>Interpersonal</td>
<td>HarperCollins, 1991</td>
<td>Reccommended by Carol Hurst, this book is the story of a man who loves his job so much that it seems like play. This would be a great way to introduce that jobs should be something you can enjoy and even love! It also deals with multicultural themes by explaining some of the kibbutz life.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By Michelle Edwards</td>
<td>Bodily-Kinesthetic</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Genre</strong>: Realistic Fiction, Multicultural</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alemia's Road by Linda Altman</td>
<td>Bodily-Kinesthetic, Interpersonal</td>
<td>Lee and Low, 1993</td>
<td>According to Carol Hurst, this is a good book to help kids realize how their parent’s jobs affect them. This is the story of the daughter of a migrant worker. It tells the story of how she always has to move because of her dad’s job. Genre= Realistic Fiction, Multicultural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My Father’s Boat by Sherry Garland and Ted Rand</td>
<td>Bodily Kinesthetic, Interpersonal</td>
<td>Orchard, 1998</td>
<td>Recommended by Carol Hurst, this book can help introduce careers in other countries. It is the story of a man who shrimp fishes in American and remembers how his father taught him the family business when he still lived in Vietnam. Genre= Realistic Fiction, Multicultural</td>
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**GOALS:**

**Indiana State Standards:**

**Social Studies Standards**

K.4.1 Explain that people work to earn money to buy the things they want.

K.4.2 Identify different kinds of jobs that people do. Example: Picture books and stories illustrate and identify different types of jobs, as well as tools and clothing used in different jobs.

K.4.3 Explain why people in a community have different jobs. Example: People may have different types of jobs because they like doing different things, or because they are better at doing one particular type of job.

**Science Standards**

K.2.2 Draw pictures and write words to describe objects and experiences.

K.3.1 Describe objects in terms of the materials they are made of, such as clay, cloth, paper, etc.

**Math Standard**

K.5.1 Make direct comparisons of the length, capacity, weight, and temperature of objects and recognize which object is shorter, longer, taller, lighter, heavier, warmer, cooler or holds more.

**Language Arts Standards**

K.1.9 Listen to and say consonant-vowel-consonant (cvc) sounds and blend the sounds to make words.

K.4.3 Write using pictures, letters, and words.
Learning Outcomes:

- After completing the career unit, students will identify why it is important that people in a community have different jobs with 100% accuracy.

- Given the title of a job, students will identify the role that job plays in the community, 4 out of 5 times accurately.

- After learning about a wide variety of careers, students will identify at least one career that they would love to do, with 100% participation

- Given the title of a job, students will identify at least 2 skills or tools needed to be successful at that job, with at least 80% accuracy.

Strategies to be taught:

Questioning (generating questions, asking questions)
Very basic inferences (using information to answer “why”)
Letter Sound Recognition
Listening Skills (while someone is reading aloud or storytelling)
Pre-reading

Activity: Group discussion about what a job is. Talk about the word job. Break apart the sounds of the word (j, long o, and b). Add this word to the word wall. Introduce other important words such as career and work. Have kids chose one word and write copy it from the word wall onto a blank paper. Ask them to draw pictures to help them remember what these words mean (writing, art).

Grouping: whole group, individual

Activity: Go home and interview parents, aunts, uncles, etc about their jobs. Return the next day as a whole group. Kids share what they found out. Teacher records jobs on paper. As a class, discuss why each job is important. Pantomime how the world would be different if there were no people doing this job! (Drama)

Grouping: individual, whole group, small groups for pantomime

Reading

Activity: Teacher will read the book aloud to the whole class. Teacher will discuss the cover, title, author, back cover and other important elements of a book.

Grouping: whole group

Activity: Stop when a job is introduced. Discuss why that job is important to our society. Discuss what kind of person might be good at this job. (Social Studies)

Grouping: whole group

Responding

Activity: put children in partners. Each pair is given the inventory from Careers For Me Junior so they can circle the kinds of things they like to do. Help each other find what kinds of careers they might like.

Grouping: partner
**Activity:** teach the song "Boom Chicka Boom." It is in the form of call and response so it is easy to pick up on. Have kids chose different jobs to be made into verses! ☺ This is a very fun song that kids love. There is no end to the creativity and variety of verses that can be sung. *(Music)*

**Grouping:** whole group

**Activity:** Draw a picture doing that career or several careers. *(Art)* Ask for volunteers to share with the whole group why they chose that career. Do not discourage outlandish ideas- Encourage them to dream big!

**Grouping:** individual

**Activity:** brainstorm questions to ask the career day adults when they come. Teach a Mini lesson on good questioning techniques.

**Grouping:** whole group

**Exploring**

**Activity:** Career day! Teacher should invite at least 5 different adults into the classroom to talk about their careers. Careers should be as varied as possible; trying to touch on as many different areas of Gardner’s multiple intelligences as possible. Children should have time to ask lots of questions including the ones that were prepared. Have each career day adult at a station. Kids move around rooms to different stations. Ask the adults to bring in tools, clothes, uniforms, time-cards, anything that kids can touch!

**Grouping:** small group

**Activity:** On Career day, ask group to reconvene as entire group. As a closing activity, ask the adults to tell one story from their career. It can be funny, or inspirational, or serious...whatever! *(Storytelling)*

**Grouping:** whole group

**Activity:** After children have cycled through all the stations have them chose an object that one of the adults brought in. Have them take this item to a desk and draw it as detailed as they can. Then have them write as many words as they can to describe this object. They must include what material they think it is made from (cloth, metal etc.) *(Science, Writing)*

**Grouping:** Individual
Applying

**Activity:** Teach a mini-lesson on different methods of transportation to get to jobs. Use the gym and assign each child a “job” and also a destination or “work place.” Some “doctors” will work at a hospital which is far away (in the gym). Some “farmers” will work at home which is nearby. Have children try to get to their job as fast as they can when you blow the whistle. Discuss why some people have to travel far to their job and some people work at home. Compare distances using the words “longer” and “longest”, “shorter” and “shortest.” (Math and Gross Motor)

**Grouping:** whole group

**Activity:** To reinforce the concept that people are dependant on the other jobs in our community, create a game using a set of “Jenga” blocks and label them with different jobs in the community. Have the kids take turns in small groups playing the game. When the tower falls, talk about how that represents how our community would fall without people doing all the important jobs. (Fine motor skills)

**Grouping:** small groups

**Activity:** Read some of the other books on the list to conclude the unit. Talk about how these books relate to the unit.

**Grouping:** whole group
## TIME SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day 1</th>
<th>Day 2</th>
<th>Day 3</th>
<th>Day 4</th>
<th>Day 5</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduce concept of a job</td>
<td>Discuss interviews, pantomime activity</td>
<td>Careers for Me Junior inventory</td>
<td>&quot;Boom, Chicka, Boom&quot; song</td>
<td>CAREER DAY!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assign kids to go home and interview relative</td>
<td>Read book, discuss importance of each job</td>
<td>Draw picture of careers they like</td>
<td>Brainstorm good questions (mini lesson on good questions)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>day 6</td>
<td>day 7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Gym for gross motor lesson on transportation and distance</td>
<td>Jenga game</td>
<td>Read other books on the list</td>
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</tbody>
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## ASSIGNMENT CHECKLIST

___ Journal entries during unit

___ Venn Diagram - Jews and Slaves

___ Scrapbook page

___ Skit