

## Interview a Child Care Professional

Interviewing and observing a child care professional on the job can provide valuable information about the experiences you will encounter in your career as a child care professional. You will learn about the education, training, skills, and abilities needed to be a successful child care professional.



### My Journal

If you completed the journal entry on page 80, refer to it to see how you described a child care professional's typical day at work. Add any additional notes about a child care professional's job responsibilities after reading this unit.



### English Language Arts Standards

**NCTE 4** Use written language to communicate effectively.

**NCTE 7** Conduct research and gather, evaluate, and synthesize data to communicate discoveries.

**NCTE 12** Use language to accomplish individual purposes.

## Project Assignment

### In this project, you will do the following:

- Choose a child care career that you are interested in learning more about
- Develop questions to ask a child care professional
- Interview and observe a child care professional
- Write a report summarizing your experience and what you learned from the interview
- Present the information you gathered during this experience to the class

### Applied Child Care Professional Skills Behind the Project

Your success as a child care professional will depend on your skills. Skills you will use in this project include the following:

- ▶ Interacting with child care professionals in a professional environment
- ▶ Conducting observations and drawing conclusions about those observations
- ▶ Determining education, training, skills, and abilities required for the child care profession
- ▶ Identifying aptitudes and personal interests needed for child care careers

### English Language Arts Skills Behind the Project

The English Language Arts skills you will use for this project are interviewing, writing, and speaking skills. Remember these key concepts:

#### Interviewing Skills

- ▶ Organize your interview questions in the order you want to ask them
- ▶ Take clear and accurate notes
- ▶ Listen attentively and ask follow-up questions
- ▶ Thank the interviewee for his or her time

#### Writing Skills

- ▶ Use complete sentences with correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation
- ▶ Consider your audience
- ▶ Use findings from the interview to communicate your discoveries in writing

#### Speaking Skills

- ▶ Rehearse what you are going to say before your presentation
- ▶ Speak clearly so that the audience can follow your presentation
- ▶ Make and maintain eye contact with your audience

**STEP 1 Choose and Research Your Career**

Choose and research a child care career that you are interested in learning more about. Do background research to determine the following general information about the career:

- educational requirements
- job responsibilities
- average salary
- job outlook

**STEP 2 Plan Your Interview and Observation**

Use the results of your research to write a list of interview questions to ask a local child care professional about his or her career. Your questions should ask about education, personal interests and aptitudes, and skills and abilities needed in the child care profession. Your questions might include:

- Why did you choose your career?
- What education did you receive?
- How did your career path lead to your current job? Where do you see your career path taking you?
- Describe a typical workday.
- What skills are most important for your job?
- What is the most challenging part of your job? The most rewarding?
- What advice would you give to someone interested in this career path?

**STEP 3 Connect with Your Community**

Identify a local child care professional you can interview. Conduct your interview using the questions you prepared in Step 2. After the interview, observe the child care professional at work. Take notes during the interview and observation and write a summary of the experience.



**Plan**

- ✓ Choose and research a child care career that you are interested in.
- ✓ Plan and write your interview questions.
- ✓ Interview and observe a child care professional and write a summary of the information that you learned.

**Present**

- ✓ Make a presentation to your class to share the results of your interview and observation.
- ✓ Invite students to ask any questions they may have. Answer these questions.
- ✓ When students ask you questions, demonstrate in your answers that you respect their perspectives.
- ✓ Turn in your interview questions and the summary of the interview and observation to your teacher.

**STEP 4 Share What You Have Learned**

Use the Child Care Portfolio Project Checklist to plan and give an oral report about your interview experience to share what you have learned with your classmates. In your presentation, be sure to describe your interviewee's

- typical workday.
- education.
- skills and interests.
- daily challenges and rewards.
- advice to students interested in pursuing the career path.

**STEP 5 Evaluate Your Child Care Professional and Academic Skills**

Your project will be evaluated based on the following:

- Content, organization, and completeness of your information
- Depth and detail of your interview and observation
- Use of complete sentences and correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation
- Quality of presentation, including speaking and listening skills



**CLICK TO IT • Project Worksheet** Go to this book's Online Learning Center at [glencoe.com](http://glencoe.com) for a worksheet you can use to complete your portfolio project.