



### Career Exploration in Afterschool

Afterschool can help maximize career readiness opportunities by engaging students in activities that help them learn about and experience work, gain exposure to potential careers, build needed skills, and explore an array of career options. Ideally, students’ understanding of and preparation for careers follows along a continuum that begins in elementary school (**career awareness**), expands in middle school (**career exploration**), and is applied in high school and beyond (**career readiness**). While this is considered the ideal chronology, as with any developmental process it is never too early or too late for youth to learn about work and careers.

Career Awareness (Elementary)	Career Exploration (Middle School)	Career Readiness (High School)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce work concept</li> <li>• Introduce potential careers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore students’ interests</li> <li>• Develop understanding of career requirements</li> <li>• Align career options with career requirements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop career and employability (21<sup>st</sup> Century) skills</li> <li>• Provide opportunities to practice skills and experience work</li> <li>• Identify career possibilities based on students’ interests</li> <li>• Establish career goals</li> </ul>
Awareness Activity Ideas	Exploration Activity Ideas	Readiness Activity Ideas

Source: Afterschool Programming as a Lever to Enhance and Provide Career Readiness Opportunities  
<https://ccrcenter.org/sites/default/files/Afterschool%20Career%20Readiness.pdf>

