



Computer Fun:

Learning Resources

Learning beyond books and the classroom

Are adults still asking you what you want to be when you grow up? Very few people your age (or even much older) have a clue what they want their adult life to look like, so don't worry too much. You have plenty of time to figure it out. Take time now to be an observer. Think about what you like to do and what makes you happy. Notice adults around you that you admire and watch how they live their lives. One of these days, your observations will come into focus and you'll find your way in the world.

These are the best years of your life...NOT!

You've heard adults tell you these are the best years of your life. When they say that (and you roll your eyes), they're fondly remembering their own youth – they have no idea what your life is like. You may be juggling school, a part-time job, chores, friends, sports and other activities or responsibilities. There aren't enough hours in the day! When you don't know how you'll squeeze in one more demand on your time, remember that what you do now is an investment in the person you're becoming. Consider yourself a work in progress.

What's my job?

Your biggest job right now is making good choices and learning the skills that will help you on whichever path your adult life will take. Resist the urge to follow the crowd because it's easy. Choose friends who like the same activities that you do – even if they aren't always the cool kids. Define what's cool to you!

Choose to do your best in school and you'll discover that the subjects you're really good at will guide you to your future. Your journey to forever has already begun!

Choose values you can live with by deciding what's important to you. Observe and talk to adults you admire. Chances are they'll be happy to share the steps they took to make their dreams come true. Live and learn.

I won't need that where I'm going

Math. Science. Writing. Who needs all that? YOU do!

Even with the dreams and goals you have today, there's no way to know how you – and the world – will change in the future. Don't close a door now by ignoring or giving up on challenging subjects. (The writer of this article still doesn't like math, but uses it in some way every day.) You may think you don't like to write, but you do it every day through email and texting. You're already expressing yourself through the written word. See, that wasn't so hard after all.

Do yourself a favor and keep an open mind. That's the one thing that you'll definitely always need, and it's often the hardest thing to keep as you grow older.