

# Youth and Family Corner

Talking to young people about the type of professional work they'd like to engage in when they're older is very common. We often ask "what would you like to be when you grow up?" and the answers can be wide ranging. Perhaps they'd like to become a doctor to help save lives or an entrepreneur because someone they admire is one. Perhaps they're encouraged to become an engineer because they excel in math and science. However, we often forget to ask them about the type of business they'd like to work for or build and how it will help others.

Just as we help young people build the soft and technical skills needed for future jobs, helping young people think about their values and how they can find employers connected to those values can help them build stronger and more satisfying careers.

**How can we begin to help them process this? Here are a few questions to start:**

- **What is an issue or problem in our community that impacts you or others?** This could be anything from too much litter to wanting to help those who may be lonely.
- **How can we help solve this issue?** Remember to emphasize the "help" part of this. Some problems are too big for just one person or group to solve, so help them think through just one thing they can do.
- **How can others help solve this issue?** For example, can you help solve littering by asking your local government to install more trash and recycling receptacles?
- **How could businesses help solve this issue?** Can a local business either fund cleanup days or give their staff paid volunteer time each month to help with park clean ups?

In helping youth focus on what they care about as well as possible solutions, you're helping them shape the values they take into adulthood and into whatever professions they choose to embark on.

## Work in Action for Youth

It's never too early to begin to combine passions to save the world with career choices. Here are some young people doing just that:

- [Vardhan Agrawal](#) started the Open Code Foundation to help under resourced young people have access to the education and resources needed to pursue a career in computer science.
- [Arjun Gupta and Rayan Garg](#) are cofounders of Elevate the Future, a nonprofit organization that teaches coding and web design to young students, who then in turn have been using their newfound skills to create free websites for small businesses.

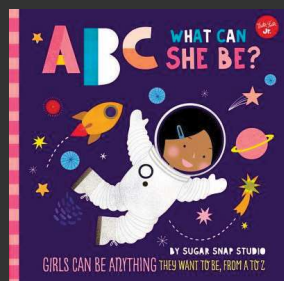
## Resources

Kids learn what they value as future employees when they're given the opportunity to learn about caring for others and the environment, solving big problems and honing their leadership skills. Here are a few resources to help them along:

- Young people can address community problems by understanding [how to come up with solutions](#).
- [Michael Platt](#) discusses how kids can and should be at the table to solve big problem.

## Family Friendly Books & Resources

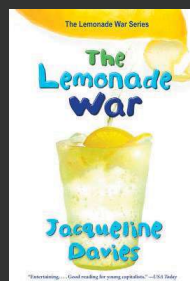
The following are resources for families to encourage listening and learning from others as well as information on finding other resources you can trust:



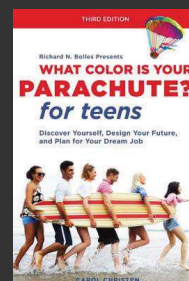
ABC What Can She Be?  
Sugar Snap Studio



Attack of the  
Underwear Dragon  
Scott Rothman



The Lemonade War  
Jacqueline Davies



What Color is Your  
Parachute (For Teens)  
Carol Christen