1. **Pre-employee encounter – Career Journey interview preparation**

This pair of lessons was developed as part of the Eden Project’s Takeover Days for primary schools. These sessions provide a structure to help you get the most out of any employee encounter, whether you’re hosting a visitor in school, or visiting employees in their workplace. During the original project, the children had already met Eden employees during a have-a-go day visit to Eden, however these sessions are designed to work as a standalone or embedded within a wider careers-focused project.

## The Task

The children’s task is to find out as much as they can about their employee’s ‘career journey’.

*Career journey = the combination of a person’s education, training and work experience which has led them to their current job.*

The aim is to focus in on the sticky bits and the things that didn’t go according to plan as well as the successes. We want the children to gain some wisdom and inspiration from their employee about the wider world of work, as well as thinking about the sorts of strategies they can use to 1. Set a goal and put steps/strategies in place to reach that goal and 2. How to get unstuck when you’re stuck.

**Curriculum Links and more**

English speaking and listening:

* listen and respond appropriately to adults and their peers
* ask relevant questions to extend their understanding and knowledge
* select and use appropriate registers for effective communication.

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-curriculum-in-england-english-programmes-of-study/national-curriculum-in-england-english-programmes-of-study#spoken-language--years-1-to-6](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-curriculum-in-england-english-programmes-of-study/national-curriculum-in-england-english-programmes-of-study#spoken-language--years-1-to-6)

Skillsbuilder – Aiming High  [/www.skillsbuilder.org/framework](https://www.skillsbuilder.org/framework)

**Session Plan**

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| **No: of learners:** Class-sized group | **Age of learners:** 9-11 | **Session time:** approx. 1 hour |
| **Session outcomes. Children will:**   * Review current knowledge of their employee, role or organisation * Be introduced to the concept of a Career Journey * Use 5Ws and an H to write good questions to gather particular information * Frame interview questions in a way that is polite and encouraging | | |
| **Session/ timing** | **Activity** | **Resources** |
| **Intro.** | * Explain that children will be interviewing an employee/visitor to find out more about their job and career journey. * Mindmap what’s already known about the individual, their job or organisation. * Introduce the concept of a career journey. A simple way to do this is for the class teacher or another school member of staff to tell the children about their career journey. |  |
| **Interview preparation** | * Introduce/remind children about 5Ws and an H for framing open questions (who, what, when, where, why and how). * Brief on the sort of information they need to find out from their interviewee including education, current and previous jobs, challenges encountered and overcome. * Work in groups on big paper to plot out their questions. Share, appreciate, refine. * How could they also make their questions sound polite and friendly? Finalise and record individually. | A3 paper and pens  Resource 1 or 1diff. interview prep. One per child or group.  Example of questions from Y5 children. |
| **Career journey interview** | * Prepare the class to manage the interview so that they can get maximum benefit from it. Do you need designated interviewers and/or note takers? * Will you conduct the interview as a whole class or in small groups? | Paper and pens. And/or audio or video recording devices. |