

## What Kinds of Career Concerns Do Our Children Have?

During middle school, children form a sense of identity through various changes in schoolwork, peer relationships, etc. What kinds of career concerns would our children have? Let's learn about children's concerns and think about how to help them.

### "What can I do well?"

Multicultural children may have low self-respect due to identity crises, language difficulties, and low academic achievement. It is important for them to understand themselves and know what they want and what kind of life they want to live, but it can be difficult for them.

At this time, it is important for parents to help their children know that they are different from others and to believe in themselves. You need to help your children raise their self-efficacy by telling them 'You can do this' and recognize their personalities and values.

- ☐ Talk to your children about what they want and what kind of life they want to live.
- ☐ Take time to think about your children's aptitudes, interests, personalities, and values.
- ☐ Explain that bilingualism can be a strength and an advantage in the global era.

### "Do I really have to study?"

Multicultural children, especially the ones who immigrated to Korea, are under a lot of stress in the process of adapting to a foreign language and culture. Difficulties with communicating in Korean can have a broad impact on education, career, and family relationships.

They may also have low academic achievement or a passive attitude towards class participation. At this point, parents should explain that studying will help them be better at what they want to do rather than just telling them to study.

- ☐ Set study goals and plans with your children.
- ☐ Teach them how to make vocabulary cards and memorize them, and practice with them.
- ☐ Use the institutions or after-school programs for them to learn about the fun of learning Korean.

### "I have no dream!"

Multicultural children may drop out of school or feel unwilling to pursue their career or further education due to emotional confusion and difficulties that continue from an early age. This is because they may have difficulties in the adaptation process if they went to school without prior knowledge of the Korean school system, social customs, and peer culture. It is necessary for parents to provide emotional support so that their adolescent children can develop healthy self-awareness. When children say they are worried because they don't have dreams, it can be a positive sign, as it is the beginning of thinking about a career path.

- ☐ Dreams can change any time. Help your children to freely imagine the future.
- ☐ Let them know it is important to develop the ability to look at career choices through various experiences.
- ☐ Guide them to have dreams through talks about careers, job-related materials, mentoring, etc.

### One more step to a career

#### Talk about your career concerns at your local Multicultural Education Support Center

The Ministry of Education and the Education Offices are providing career counseling channels for parents of multicultural families through the Multicultural Education Support Center. Visit your local Multicultural Education Support Center and get help with your child's career concerns.

**Education Portal for Multicultural Families**  
([edu4mc.or.kr](http://edu4mc.or.kr)) > Policy Guides > Relevant organizations >  
Search regional multicultural education support centers



※ Change the language of use by clicking the language selection in the upper left corner of the website.

Reference: Ministry of Education <School Career Counseling (Guidance) Operation Manual for Multicultural Students>; <Teacher's Manual for Multicultural Students' Career and Higher Education Guidance>

National Center for Parents Education [www.parents.go.kr](http://www.parents.go.kr)

# Handle Your Child's Career Concerns Step by Step

In any culture, children in middle school will experience puberty. Children from multicultural families are inevitably more troubled for various reasons, including their appearance and culture. Let's take a look at cases where parents wisely handled the career concerns of their middle school children, and find out what kind of support your children need.



Child

"I entered middle school without even knowing Korean"

"Schools, education office, and institutes related to multicultural families actively help children"



Parent

Lee ○○, who came to Korea with his Chinese mother during middle school, barely spoke Korean. The regional education office provided a Korean education program to help Lee settle in the early stages. He learned Korean by making friends at the local Multicultural Education Support Center and Family Center. At school, he was able to build self-esteem by helping friends with their Chinese. Lee is studying hard to achieve his dream of becoming a doctor to help people in need.

Reference: National Institute for Lifelong Education, the 9th Multicultural Education Best Practice Contest



Child

"It's hard to study alone, and to prepare for a career or go to school"

"Study with your children for their career and education"



Parent

Jang ○○ from Vietnam, who came to Korea when she married her Korean husband, was very concerned about her children's education after they were born. She was worried that she might not be able to help her children properly in their studies because of her lack of information. After she learned Korean at the local multicultural parents' community and studied for the GED, Jang learned about the Korean school system in detail. Her son, who received active support by studying for school with his mother, is now a middle school student, and he is very confident in his studies. As he says, 'Mathematics is the easiest'.

Reference: Daejeon Multicultural Family School(www.hanmaum-ec.org)



Child

"I have no confidence or motivation in my career"

"My child gained confidence preparing for the bilingual speech contest"



Parent

○○○, who arrived in Korea as a 12-year-old without a passport, began school as a first-grader in elementary school. At first, she was worried and scared, but she quickly adapted as she studied with friends in class. She says she gained greater confidence when she got interested in the bilingual speech contest and prepared to participate in it. Based on this experience of achievement, she successfully passed the elementary and middle school qualification exams.

Reference: Joongdo Ilbo, Nov. 28, 2021  
<My Adaptation Notes in Korea, Painful and Heartwarming>

## Career Magnifier

### How to prepare your child for high school

Let's find out in advance how Korean high schools operate and what they teach your children.

※ Change the language of use by clicking the language selection in the upper left corner of the website.

Gyeonggi Multicultural Education Support Center  
(more.goe.go.kr) > Parent's Square > Middle School >  
High School Entrance

