

Professionals Who Have Overcome Prejudices and Stereotypes

Let's look at some celebrities who have risen to the top in their respective fields by not giving up in spite of prejudices and stereotypes about their jobs, and guide your children to have the right understanding and values about professions.



Career Magnifier

Professionals Who Have Overcome Prejudices and Stereotypes

Q What prejudices or stereotypes have you experienced, and how did you overcome them?



Hines Ward, Football Player

Born to an American father and a Korean mother, Hines Ward was the first Asian football player to be named Super Bowl MVP.

He was born to a Korean mother and a father who served in the USFK, and lived with his mother after his parents' divorce. When he was young, he was discriminated against because his skin color was different as he was half Black. He started playing football in high school and was recognized for his talents; however, he was the last to be drafted as a cruciate ligament problem from a childhood injury was discovered just before the draft. He steadily worked hard for the Pittsburgh Steelers and developed into their key player, and became the first Asian Super Bowl MVP.



Lee Hee-ah, Pianist

Pianist who gives people hope by playing piano with four fingers due to congenital disability

When I first went looking for a place to learn piano, the teachers would shake their heads as soon as they saw my fingers, saying that I could not play the piano. However, I did not give up and eventually met my piano teacher and started learning to play the piano. When I first started learning, it took me three months to get the keyboard to make a sound. However, after practicing for 10 hours every day, I eventually won the National Art Competition for the Disabled and made a successful debut as a pianist.



Katherine Johnson, Mathematician

Mathematician who contributed to the success of America's first manned space flight and lunar mission

I am Black, and a woman. Therefore, I was only given tasks with key information covered. Also, I had to use a different coffee pot for people of color, and walk 800m every day to go to the "restroom for persons of color." However, I could calculate the main flight route of the spacecraft using my own solution by applying analytic geometry. It was something that the early computers could not do. In this way, I became an irreplaceable person, and made a change where restrooms for people of color disappeared and women were able to attend Pentagon briefings.



Stevie Wonder, Singer

A living legend with more than 30 hits and 25 Grammy Awards, he is excellent at writing lyrics and composing as well as singing and playing instruments

Born premature, I lost my sight. No one thought I would become a singer and an instrumentalist because I was blind. When I was in elementary school, a mouse had appeared in the classroom. The teacher asked me where the mouse was. I said I could not see, and the teacher said, "You cannot see, but you have better hearing than anyone else." That is when I started dreaming about music. Since I was born blind, my hearing developed more, and I was able to keep my dream for music.



Manuel Francisco dos Santos, Soccer Player

The best dribbler of all time, who is always mentioned first, even in the Brazilian soccer world that has produced many superstars

I am poor, and I have polio and the IQ of an infant. Not only that, but my spine is also curved in an S shape, and my two legs are turned to one side. Doctors diagnosed that I could not become an athlete. However, I was first selected for the Brazilian national football team in 1955, and scored 12 goals in 50 A-matches by 1966. I had an 86% winning rate. Because of my disability, my dribbling posture and rhythm were different from the other players, and the defenders of the opposite team were very confused. I did not just overcome the disability; I was able to use my disability to lead my team to victory.



Find a Professional Who Has Overcome Prejudices and Give an Imaginary Interview!

In addition to the celebrities we learned about earlier, there are many professionals who have overcome prejudices and stereotypes to go the way they wanted. Find a professional who has overcome prejudices and stereotypes, and support your children to find the career path that they want.



Career Click

Prejudices and stereotypes about careers

There are 11 kinds of prejudices and stereotypes about careers introduced by Career Net. Let's take a close look at the types of prejudices and stereotypes about jobs, and learn some ways to overcome them.

Career Net (career.go.kr)

> Career Video > Prejudices and stereotypes about careers



Make an imaginary interview of a professional who overcame prejudices.

First, think of a professional who has overcome prejudices and stereotypes around you. Refer to "Career Net > Job Information" and fill out the <Job information> and <Prejudices and stereotypes> columns. Search for more videos and articles, and make an imaginary interview with three questions and answers in the <Overcoming hardships> column. Finally, summarize the feelings you have after making the imaginary interview.

A professional who has overcome prejudices and stereotypes

e.g.) Han Hyun-min, the first multicultural model in Korea

Job information

e.g.) Model
Wears new styles of outfits made by designers and poses in a variety of ways to show off their functions and charms at exhibitions or fashion shows. It requires the ability to produce a variety of walks and facial expressions.

Information Check!

Make an imaginary interview by referring to Career Net.

Career Net (career.go.kr) > Job information



Prejudices and stereotypes

e.g.) I thought it would be awkward for me to stand on the same stage with Korean models in Korea.

Feelings after the interview

e.g.) I thought it was impressive that he works as a model after overcoming various difficulties. I could see that courage and self-confidence make a person shine.



Overcoming hardships

Q1

e.g.) Have you felt any disadvantages as a multicultural model?

Q2

e.g.) I think what Black people are allowed to do is very limited. If the concept were Asian, I could not work on it. That's where I felt it was most difficult.

Q3

e.g.) How did you feel when you first walked down the runway?

Q4

e.g.) At first, I walked without thinking. After the walk, I couldn't believe it; it was thrilling, and I wanted to walk again. I used to hate it when people looked at me, such as when I went on school trips and people stared at me because I looked different, but after working as a model, I enjoy it.

Q5

e.g.) Do you have anything else to say?

Q6

e.g.) I have been teased a lot since I was young. One day, I heard it said on a TV show, "You can do it even if your skin color is different." I hope other people can have bigger dreams and fulfill them like me.

YouTube (youtube.com) > Subusu News > Interview with Han Hyun-min who rules the fashion world

