

english | englisch

Years 11–13

# 'elternpower | kompass'

## The Guide to Career Choice

For parents and others  
who accompany young people



# You are the compass for your child



Which career suits me? How can I achieve my career goals? And what exactly is waiting for me out there in the world of work? On the path to a career, young people often face a mountain of questions and challenges.

**You, dear parents and guardians, are the most important companions, encouragers and advisors on this journey.**

Your role is both responsible and vital:

You support rather than dictating.

You open doors rather than prescribing paths.

Career orientation ('Berufliche Orientierung') is not a one-off event but a lifelong process that began with the words, 'That's what I want to be when I grow up!'. Now begins the most intensive phase of this process.

To help you support your

child effectively, we are here to support you:

The 'elternpower|kompass' from 'Netzwerk Zukunft' (Future Network) is your guide, accompanying you – depending on the school year – with useful tips and links right up until your child chooses their career.

## 'elternpower' at a glance: What really matters!

How you can support your child with their career orientation at any time – regardless of which year they are in.



### Show interest

Ask regularly about what your child is experiencing at school, in their free time, at holiday jobs or during work experience placements ('Praktikum'). This helps you find out what they enjoy and what topics matter to them.



### Listen and take them seriously

When your child talks about career ideas, no matter how unusual, listen without judging. Show openness and a willingness to explore new things together.



### Facilitate experiences

Give your child insights into the working world as often as possible – through work experience placements, volunteering, hobbies or a day at the workplace. Use your own contacts to show your child new career perspectives. Encourage your child to try things out and discover what suits them.



### Share your story and reflect on expectations

Talk about your own daily work life and career path – including any detours or changes – and consider what you wish for your child. Show that you are there to support them with your experience while allowing them to find their own way.



### Encourage them and stay relaxed

Career orientation takes time. Not everything succeeds on the first try. Obstacles and fresh starts are part of the journey. Praise them when things go well and offer support when things get difficult, but without applying pressure.



### Foster independence

Let your child handle things themselves. Taking on responsibility builds self-confidence, reliability and perseverance while providing security for new challenges.



### Be present and show you trust them

Make time for conversations – even short ones. Show that you believe in your child and trust in their abilities. A heartfelt 'I'm proud of you!' often has a stronger impact than a large amount of advice.

In short:  
Show  
'elternpower'!



## Shaping perspectives

Encourage your child to visit [fairs and university information days](#) and accompany them if needed. In personal conversations with trainers and training ambassadors, your child will receive first-hand information and experiences and can ask questions directly.

Show your child: there are many paths after the A-Level equivalent ('Abitur'): Talk about [fields of study](#), apprenticeships or degree apprenticeships. Use study and careers guidance services, e.g. in Career Information Centre ('Berufsinformationszentrum (BIZ)') at the the Employment Agency ('Agentur für Arbeit') in [Potsdam](#), [Neuruppin](#), [Frankfurt \(Oder\)](#) and [Cottbus](#).

Start planning the further educational or training path specifically with your child right at the beginning of their final school year, ideally using the summer or autumn holidays for this. This brings relief during the upcoming exam period at the end of Year 12 or 13 and creates clarity and motivation.

Talk to your child about applications, job interviews and selection tests and support them in this important phase. Information on how your child can prepare for these important milestones is available on the [elternpower website](#).

Rejections are normal and no reason to lose heart. Motivate your child to look for alternatives.

The period from Years 11 to 13 is ideal for children to earn their first own money with holiday jobs or student jobs, or for social action.

These experiences give your child the feeling that, in addition to earning money, they can make a difference with their work in a company and can contribute to their career choice decision. Proof of these activities can also be helpful for future applications. In addition, first small jobs promote independence and self-organisation.



# There is no single correct path to a career, but rather many good possibilities.

Stay interested, open and confident – your trust, your backing and your time are what strengthen your child the most.

You can find all information regarding your parental involvement in your child's career orientation at [elternpower-brandenburg.de](https://www.elternpower-brandenburg.de).

- [General information](#) and basics on the topic of career orientation in Brandenburg
- Information on [school types and training paths](#) in Brandenburg
- Information on the [Federal Career Orientation Programme](#) ('Berufsorientierungsprogramm des Bundes')

More information, event dates and tips for you and your child



[www.elternpower-brandenburg.de](https://www.elternpower-brandenburg.de)

Contacts & Regional contact persons



[elternpower-brandenburg.de/regionale-experten](https://www.elternpower-brandenburg.de/regionale-experten)



## The Newsletter of 'Netzwerk Zukunft':

For parents, schools, and businesses. Four times a year, updates on topics, highlights, and events related to career orientation. Sign up now!



[netzwerkzukunft.de/newsletter](https://netzwerkzukunft.de/newsletter)

## Members and Partners



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