

english | englisch

Year 8

'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'!



Discovering interests

Talk to your child about their strengths, skills and interests. The 'Bundesagentur für Arbeit' (Federal Employment Agency) supports this with the '[Check U](#)' format – a free online skills assessment tool which helps uncover professional strengths.

Offer to talk to your child's class about your career and how you got there – this makes career orientation tangible and personal.

Explore different [educational paths](#) together – apprenticeships, the vocational A-Level equivalent ('Fachabitur') or a degree apprenticeship ('duales Studium') – and see what best suits your child's strengths and possibilities. Find out together what everyday working life in these professions actually looks like, so that goals remain realistic and your child makes a choice that feels right. The [Brandenburg Future Day](#) ('Zukunftstag Brandenburg'), open company visits or [regional fairs](#) offer good opportunities for orientation. You can find all the dates at [elternpower-brandenburg.de](#).

After these events and other project days, discuss with your child what they took away from them and what insights might be important for their further career orientation. Have your child add collected materials or notes to their [career choice portfolio](#) – this way, you will both have the opportunity to refer back to this information later, e.g. when applying for jobs.

In the coming school year (Year 9), a compulsory [work experience placement for pupils](#) ('Schülerbetriebspraktikum') is on the agenda. Help your child look for a placement early on and consider together which placement provider matches their interests and skills. Find out about the general conditions and encourage your child to start approaching potential companies directly now. [Checklists](#) help you and your child to prepare well for a placement and complete it successfully.

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

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!



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