

english | englisch

Year 9

# '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'!



## Testing abilities

In this school year at the latest, your child will get their first direct glimpse into the professional world: the [work experience placement](#).

Various online platforms can help in the search for a suitable placement: e.g. [the placement search of the 'Bundesagentur für Arbeit'](#) or school student placements in [nursing](#) and the [agricultural sector](#).

Regional placement exchanges in your chamber district:

Potsdam:

- [IHK Work Experience Atlas](#) ('IHK-Praktikumsatlas'),
- [HWK Apprenticeship and Work Experience Exchange Potsdam](#) ('Ausbildungs- und Praktikumsbörse der HWK')

Cottbus:

- [IHK Work Experience Atlas](#) ('IHK-Praktikumsatlas')
- [Lusatia Work Experience Portal](#) 'Praktikum Lausitz'

Frankfurt (Oder):

- [IHK Work Experience Atlas](#) ('IHK-Praktikumsatlas')
- [Work Experience Portal Frankfurt \(Oder\)](#) 'Praktikumsbörse der HWK Frankfurt (Oder)'

Support your child during the application and preparation phase and use specific [checklists](#) for this. Your child can tell you which aspects are already being covered in class at school. You, in turn, can add your own experiences – for example, regarding application procedures for placements in your company. Look over your child's applications and provide constructive and motivating feedback.

Always encourage your child to show initiative: to plan themselves, to make contact themselves, and to write by themselves. Voluntary placements organised by the students themselves during the holidays also provide further insights. Children who are otherwise hesitant to take action benefit

particularly from this and gain self-confidence.

Visit [career fairs and information events](#) together; there are often specific sessions for parents here too. If needed, accompany your child for careers guidance ('Berufsberatung') at the Career Information Centre ('Berufsinformationszentrum (BIZ)') at the Employment Agency ('Agentur für Arbeit') in [Potsdam](#), [Neuruppin](#), [Frankfurt \(Oder\)](#) and [Cottbus](#) – there, you can get advice together and discover new career perspectives.

Think together about what happens [after Year 10](#) – regardless of which type of school your child is currently attending. Open days at educational institutions are ideal for getting an idea of the offerings and possibilities. Also, pay attention to application deadlines for vocational training. In some cases, young people have to apply as early as Year 9.

**Encourage your child to build on their strengths. Support them in getting involved and showing who they are – because many companies pay close attention to motivation and personality. Reports and absences are also part of this – as part of an overall impression.**

HWK = Chamber of Crafts, IHK = Chamber of Industry and Commerce

# 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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