



CollegeCountsSM
Alabama's 529 Fund



Start Small.

What do you want to be when you grow up?
You can be almost anything you want,
because life is an adventure—and you get
to choose where that adventure takes you.

Notes:



Doctor / Nurse

What they do:

Doctors and nurses help people get better when they are sick or hurt, and they help people stay healthy so they can avoid getting sick or hurt.



**Draw yourself helping
someone sick get better.**

Start Small:

**Put a first aid kit together for your family and
make sure everyone knows where it's located.**

Education:

**To become a doctor, you'll need a four-year
degree in biology or chemistry before attending
medical school. To become a nurse, you can get
a two-year degree in nursing, but if you have a
four-year degree in nursing, you'll have more
options and you can earn more money.**



Educator

What they do:

Teachers, professors, and other educators help people learn more about the things they're interested in, from grade school all the way through college.

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Draw yourself as a grown-up helping other children learn.

Start Small:

Tell your favorite teacher or counselor that you're interested in doing what they do when you grow up, then find out what inspired them to teach.

Education:

To become a teacher, professor, or another kind of educator, you'll need a four-year degree in education and possibly a graduate degree. When you're in graduate school, most students will help more experienced teachers so they can learn from them and practice their skills.



Designer

What they do:

Designers create the way our world looks, from the buildings all across our cities to our favorite clothes, posters, video games, and more.

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Draw a cool design for a building, a piece of clothing, a billboard, or whatever you'd like!

Start Small:

Use your imagination and design some new things you would like. A building, a piece of clothing, a sneaker, a billboard, a plane—whatever you can dream up!

Education:

To become a designer, you'll need a four-year degree in whatever type of designs you want to create—art, fashion, film, you name it. For certain types of design, like architecture, you'll need to attend graduate school to perfect your craft.



Writer

What they do:

Writers come up with all kinds of stories that entertain us, inspire us, and help us learn about new things.

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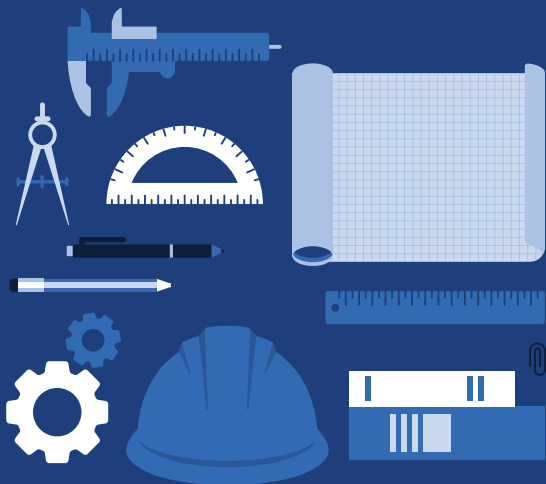
Draw a scene from your favorite book or favorite story.

Start Small:

Come up with a list of five chapter books that you want to read before the end of the school year, then find them at your local library.

Education:

To become a writer, many people earn a four-year degree in something like English, History, or a foreign language. However, writers come from all kinds of educational backgrounds, so if you want to be a writer, just make sure you write (and read) a lot!



Engineer

What they do:

Engineers invent and build all kinds of machines and other things that make our daily lives better.

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Draw a brand new kind of machine and explain what it does.

Start Small:

Ask your parents if you can (carefully!) take apart a household gadget they don't plan on using anymore, then examine it to see how it was made.

Education:

To become an engineer, you'll need a four-year degree in one of a few different types of engineering. If you want to do tougher jobs, you'll need to attend graduate school as well. Once you've completed your studies, you'll need to pass a series of tests before you can start working.



Police Officer/Firefighter CSI Agent/FBI Agent

What they do:

Police officers, firefighters, crime scene investigators, and FBI agents keep people safe when things get dangerous.



Draw yourself in a police car or a fire engine.

Start Small:

Tell your parents about the last time you saw someone in trouble or being bullied, then ask them what you can do to help next time it happens.

Education:

To become a police officer or a firefighter, you'll need to get accepted to and train at a police academy or a fire training academy. To become a CSI agent or an FBI agent, you'll need to earn a four-year degree and do some on-the-job training after that.



Carpenter/Builder

What they do:

Carpenters and builders put together all types of things, from houses and furniture to bridges and highways.

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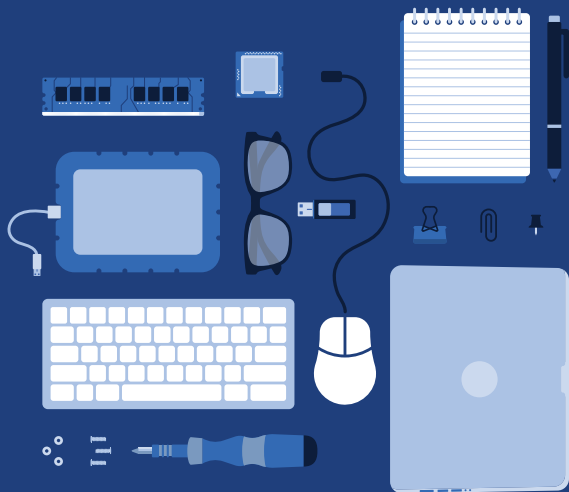
Draw a piece of furniture that you'd like to have in your room.

Start Small:

Next time you're building something with blocks or small pieces, set aside the instructions and try building something from your imagination.

Education:

To become a carpenter or a builder, you can complete your training through an apprenticeship at a local shop. Or, if you have a four-year degree or a two-year degree in construction or something similar, you'll have more options and you can earn more money.



Programmer/Developer IT Specialist

What they do:

Programmers, developers, and IT (information technology) specialists use computers to design and create things.

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Draw a computer with your favorite website or game on the screen.

Start Small:

Ask your parents to show you some of their favorite websites or computer programs and learn more about how they work or how they help their lives.

Education:

To become a programmer, developer, or IT specialist, you can complete a training program that teaches you specific computer skills. Or, if you have a four-year degree or a two-year degree in computer science or something similar, you'll have more options and you can earn more money.



Veterinarian

What they do:

Veterinarians take care of our pets when they're sick, and they check our pets to make sure they're healthy.



Draw yourself playing with your favorite animal, or a few different animals.

Start Small:

If you have pets at home, or if your friends/neighbors have pets, learn more about how to safely play with them and how to keep them from getting hurt.

Education:

To become a veterinarian, you'll need a four-year degree in biology or chemistry before attending veterinary school, which usually lasts another four years and includes working with experienced vets.



Pilot/Navigator/Captain

What they do:

Pilots, navigators, and captains make sure planes, helicopters, ships, and other types of transportation get to where they're going and keep their passengers or cargo safe.

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Draw the plane, helicopter, ship, or even space shuttle that you want to command.

Start Small:

Have your parents help you build a few different paper airplanes, then test them out and see how they fly.

Education:

To become a pilot or navigator, you'll need a four-year degree in a field related to aircrafts, followed by a few months of training. To become a captain, you'll need a four-year degree in a field related to ships, and you'll need to earn a license after that.



Machine Operator

What they do:

Whether they're working by hand or with big machines, producers and manufacturers put together all kinds of things that make our lives easier.

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Draw a big machine that can create something you enjoy, like shoes or books.

Start Small:

Look at the labels on your clothes, your toys, or your electronics to see where they're made, then see how many different countries you can come up with.

Education:

To work in a factory or operate big machines, you'll need to receive a high school diploma, then you have the option of earning a two-year degree after that. Most workers complete a three- to four-year apprenticeship on their way to a full career.



Farmer

What they do:

Farmers and agricultural workers grow many of the foods we eat every day, or the ingredients used in those foods, and deliver them when they're fresh.

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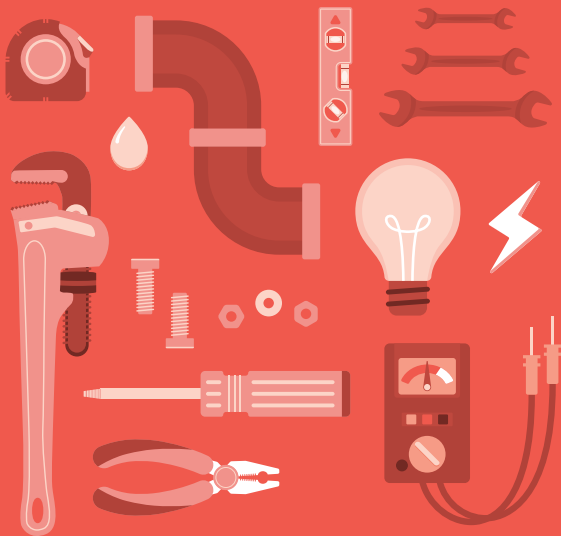
Draw a big plate full of your favorite foods that a farmer might grow.

Start Small:

Take a peek into your refrigerator or pantry with your parents and look at all the different foods, then ask them about where those foods come from.

Education:

Farmers mostly learn and train through good old-fashioned hands-on experience. However, there are two-year degrees and four-year degrees available in farming and agriculture for those who want to learn more about the things they plan to grow.



Electrician/Plumber

What they do:

Electricians and plumbers make sure all the wires behind your walls and pipes beneath your feet are in top shape to power houses and other buildings.

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Draw your favorite electronic devices that you use at home, or use your imagination to draw a system of pipes running through your house.

Start Small:

Find an old electronic device that your parents aren't using anymore, then ask them to open it up so you can examine what's on the inside.

Education:

To become an electrician or a plumber, you'll need a high school diploma, and you can obtain a two-year college degree as well. The important thing is completing your training through an apprenticeship, which will take up to four to five years.
