Parent Guide to
College & Career Readiness, 4th-5th grades

During the 4th -5th grade years, children....
• Have their own mind, but are easily influenced by others
• Can take on more responsibilities
• Are becoming more “well-rounded” in their interests.
• Believe groups and belonging are very important

Additional skills needed for college and career readiness include:

Being successful in school: Foster a love of learning by engaging students in the learning process outside of school
• Help your student by providing many opportunities to read and be read to.
• Have your student in after-school and enrichment programs.
• Take advantage of your local library and community resources.
• Explore how academic areas relate to different careers by visiting museums, the Exploratorium, etc.

You can support College and Career Readiness by...
• Helping your student get to school on time
• Opening a savings account for your student
• Teaching your student the value of saving while providing them opportunities to save
• Teaching positive work values
• Speaking positively about work and education
• Limiting TV/computer time
• Assigning chores universally, rather than based on gender
• Assisting in helping your student identify his/her own interests and providing opportunities to explore those interests
• Exploring how personal interests are related to careers and occupations
• Having high educational expectations
• Participating in school-related events, such as Back to School Night, Parent Teacher Conferences, PTA meetings, etc.
• Visiting college campuses

Personal Responsibility: Students exhibit good work habits.
• Develop time-management skills, such as positive incentives for completing homework on time.
• Develop organizational skills by keeping an organized binder, homework log, etc.
• Have your student be accountable for their work by checking in with them often, as well as with their teachers.
• Show that every choice has a consequence, whether positive or negative.

Interpersonal relationships: Students interact positively with those around them.
• Help your student by exposing him/her to experiences that require them to positively work with others
• Demonstrate what positive peer support looks like for your student

Adapted from Virginia Career View, virginiacareerview.org, January 2014