

How Do You Prepare for a Successful Future?

Lesson 4: Making My Dreams Come True

Adopted from lesson plans created by Jennifer Raeder for the San Francisco Unified School District's Kindergarten to College Program.

Objective: Students will be able to imagine their future selves and accomplishments. Students will communicate their ideas through drawings and/or writing.

Materials:

- Chart Paper and markers
- Copies of "Cloud" template or "Making My Dreams Come True" Cloud Worksheet (see Lesson 4 Resources)
- Poster or bulletin display space (Label; "Making Our Dreams Come True" or "Dreams for Our Futures")

Key Vocabulary: future, plan, dreams

Lesson Outline

Tell students that today they will be thinking about their *futures*. Explain that the future is the time that hasn't happened yet, but will happen later. (Reference tomorrow, next year, and 12 years from now, as examples of future times.) They are going to imagine, or *dream* about, a time far in the future, when they will be young adults. Explain that dreams are not just the things we imagine when we sleep, but also the things we think about when we are awake and that we hope will happen. Tell students that when people want to do something like go to college, it helps to make *plans*. Making plans helps people make good decisions so that they can accomplish their dreams.

Ask students to close their eyes and imagine themselves as a young adult. What dreams do they have for their future? What will their house/apartment look like? What kind of job will they have? Will their job require that they go to college? Will they have pets?

Have students share their ideas with another child, then with the rest of the group. Ask students to draw a picture of what they imagined when they thought about their futures. They can draw this picture on a "Cloud," or you may want to paste their picture onto a cloud later. They may also label their

picture or have an adult add a description of what their career choice is.

Note: Break point. The rest may be done on a separate day, if needed.

Display the pictures on a bulletin board or poster. Have students tell the rest of the class about their dreams. Explain that many of these dreams require going to college to be able to make them come true. Explain that your dream was to become a teacher, and to become a teacher, you needed to go to college. Explain that in order for the students to go to college and make their dreams come true, they have to work hard in school and learn as much as they can. They also need to start thinking about how to pay for college in the future, because it is expensive. Luckily, each of them already has a college savings account. Explain that they can put money into their account, and keep it safe for college.

Identify which jobs require a 4 year college degree or more (7 years for example for a Doctor). Share with the children that studies show that children who graduate from college with a 4 year degree will earn up to a \$1,000,000 dollars more in their lifetime. Ask kids what they would do if they had a million dollars to spend after they worked their whole lives? Reiterate that dreams can become a reality when kids work hard to get good grades, stay in school and graduate from high school, working towards their dream of going to college. Remind them that by saving money to pay for their dreams (even a small part of college, like their books, and food while they are in college) they will be better prepared to go.