

# INTRODUCTION

## The KAPOW Program

KIDS AND THE POWER OF WORK (KAPOW) is a national network of business and elementary school partnerships. KAPOW introduces young students to work-related concepts and experiences that can be continually reinforced throughout the students' formative years. This program was founded in 1991 by Grand Metropolitan Inc. and the National Child Labor Committee, a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the rights, dignity, and well-being of children as they relate to work, working, and education.

Communication and organization are the keys to creating a successful KAPOW partnership. When the participating schools and businesses work together, they succeed in bringing an awareness of the workplace to students in the classroom.

## Our Curriculum

The curriculum has eight lessons, each of which features a work-related concept. The lessons are interactive, educational, hands-on, and FUN! This curriculum has been developed by professional writers, with teachers and program volunteers as consultants. You can be assured that the material is age-appropriate as well as educationally sound and up-to-date.

Awareness of the world of work can be built into every aspect of students' lives—home, school, hobbies, and community activities. The Bibliography and Cross-curriculum Connections in each lesson give suggestions for connecting career themes to other subject areas and for expanding career awareness.

Between lessons and the volunteer's visits to the classroom, teachers can reinforce the KAPOW work themes. Two ways to do this are to find opportunities to refer to flipchart information from the lesson activities and to display pictures that show students participating in the KAPOW activities.

## To the Teacher and the Volunteer

The lessons in this book provide easy guidance as you plan the activities, the volunteer classroom visits, the worksite visit, and family member involvement. We offer these suggestions *before you begin the lessons*. (Some of these suggestions are also mentioned in the lessons.)

- ▶ Both the teacher and the volunteer should read the whole lesson first so they are familiar with the content and can repeat and reinforce concepts from earlier lessons.
- ▶ The core activity (in Teacher Activities) teaches the key concept of the KAPOW lesson and should be done first. The core activity also prepares students for the activity they will do with the volunteer for that lesson. You may also do the optional teacher activity if you want.

- ▶ As the teacher, you should be familiar with the volunteer's part of each lesson so you can help out where needed.
- ▶ The volunteer chooses *one* of the three activities (in Volunteer Activities) to do with the students. You may want to ask the teacher's advice about which one to choose. In addition to one activity choice, the volunteer should also do the Warm-up and the Wrap-up in each lesson.
- ▶ Be sure to have copies of worksheets and handouts made *before* you begin the teacher and volunteer activities. Also have any necessary materials ready beforehand. In some cases it may be practical for students to bring in materials.
- ▶ The teacher, the volunteer, and the volunteer coordinator need to work together closely to prepare the worksite visit (Lesson 5). This activity requires time to organize, so begin early.

Remember that as teachers and volunteers from companies, you represent the world of work to the students. Draw on your experience to set an example and inspire students to become successful in their school careers and, later, to become contributing members of the work force.

### **Making the Home-School Connection**

Whenever it is appropriate, invite students' family members to participate in the lesson activities and share their past or current work experiences. (Refer to the "Letter Home" on page 13, which includes a form for parents and guardians who would like to participate.) Students will understand and appreciate work life better when they learn from people they know.

Other specific home-school connections occur in Lesson 5 (summary of the worksite visit that students take home) and in Lesson 8 (final "Letter Home" from KAPOW and "My KAPOW Letter Home" from students, in which they write about their favorite activities and jobs).

If you have any questions, here's how to get in touch with us:

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