

Chapter 4
Families in a Changing World

Enrichment Activities

A PROMISING FUTURE

Did you know that there are people who are actually *paid* to think into the future? It's their job to predict what people will be wearing, driving, eating, and even thinking about in the future.

Directions: Pretend that you are part of a personal "Think Tank." Take a few moments to envision your life twenty years from now. Remember that your assignment is to predict a positive future for yourself. Think seriously about each of the categories below and then fill in the chart.

MY LIFE IN TWENTY YEARS	
How I continue to learn	
What I do for work	
What I do for fun	
What my family looks like	
What I wear	
Where I/we live	
What I value most	
What makes me happy	

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LIFELONG LEARNING

The concept of lifelong learning is an interesting one. It certainly does *not* mean that we will all be attending school five days a week for nine months out of the year for the rest of our lives! However, it reminds us that we learn in many ways from many people and in many different places.

Being open to opportunities to learn enables you to move ahead. You, like many people, will change jobs or careers many times in your adult life. To do that, you have to know how to learn new things, where to get information, and how to find out what you need to know.

You are already a lifelong learner. You have been learning from many different people and in many different places since you were born. Open up your thinking. Make a mental note of your life from birth to the present as you answer these questions.

1. Who have been your *best* teachers so far? (Remember, don't limit yourself to high school teachers. They can be anyone you have learned something important from in your life. That includes relatives, authors, famous people, friends, coaches, clergy, etc.) After you list these important teachers, write what you learned from each that was most valuable to you.

My Best Teachers	What I Learned
a.	
b.	
c.	
d.	
e.	

2. Where are your best learning places? (Remember, there are lots of places to learn besides a school classroom. These places can include your home, the outdoors, the library, the Internet, or even the laundromat.)

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____

3. In what ways are you a teacher as well as a learner? What do you know in your heart you can teach someone, even if you haven't yet had the opportunity? (It might be how to dribble, read music, fix a computer, or make a friend. It might be the ability to laugh at yourself or to forgive.)

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____

Focus In
Knowing what you know about lifelong learning, what would you say to a friend who is worried about the future?