



# When I Grow Up (I Want to Be Me) — Lesson Plan

Grade: Pre-K–2 | Duration: 40–50 minutes | CASEL Domain: Self-Awareness

---

**Objective:** Students will celebrate the full range of their interests and qualities, understanding that identity is richer than any single job title and that "being yourself" is the most powerful answer to "What do you want to be?"

**Essential Question:** *"What if the best answer to "What do you want to be?" is "ME"?"*

**Materials:** The personalized story, Costume props or paper cutouts (hats, tools, etc.), Large paper, Markers, stickers

**Vocabulary:** Future, Career, Interest, Qualities, Identity, Explore, Passionate, Curious, Dream, Celebrate

## ANTICIPATORY SET (5 MIN)

Quick poll: "Who wants to be a doctor? A teacher? An astronaut? A vet? An artist?" (Multiple hands for multiple things.) "What if I told you the BEST answer is to want to be all of them — and none of them — and something that doesn't exist yet?"

## DIRECT INSTRUCTION (15 MIN)

Read aloud. Lean into the career costume montage. REALLY lean into the pile-up collapse — it's the funniest moment. Pause when the hero stands with nothing on: "What did the crowd see?" Emphasize: the PERSON is the point, not the costume.

## GUIDED PRACTICE (10 MIN)

Costume Pile-Up activity. Discuss: why was the real person more interesting than all the costumes combined?

## INDEPENDENT PRACTICE (10 MIN)

Design your Future Fair tent. Fill your Qualities outline. Write: "No matter what I become, I will always be \_\_\_\_."

## CLOSURE (5 MIN)

Future Fair Gallery Walk: visit each other's tents. Finish: "The best thing about me isn't what I'll BE — it's who I already AM."

## ASSESSMENT

Can children name multiple interests without anxiety? Can they identify personal qualities beyond career titles? Exit ticket: "What I love about being me is \_\_\_\_."

## DIFFERENTIATION

**Support:** Provide interest picture cards to choose from. Use verbal sharing instead of writing.

**Extend:** Interview adults about how their childhood interests led to unexpected careers. Create a "Future Me" time capsule to open in 5th grade.

## HOME CONNECTION

Send home the Future Fair tent design. Suggest families replace "What do you want to be?" with "What are you excited about today?"

---