

What Should I be when I grow up?

by **Becky Dieter**

Years ago, a person started his or her career with one company and would stay until they retired. Now people not only change jobs frequently but also careers. The U.S. Department of Labor statistics show that people will change careers three to four times. Why has this become more common?

What is it that people are now seeking? Probably one of the top things that many people are seeking (besides money) is balance. There are so many more options today than there were years ago. There is job-sharing, flextime, telecommuting and more opportunities for being your own boss. These choices have developed as the workforce has demanded a more balanced lifestyle with home and work.

With all of these new opportunities: What should you be when you grow up? My kids are all leaving—what now? These are the questions that more and more people are asking themselves these days. What is your life purpose? What would make you wake up and want to go to work? What would truly make you feel fulfilled? Can I be “successful” at my dream job? The answers to these questions begin the journey to finding what you want to be.

These may sometimes be difficult explorations to take on alone; but, with someone to guide you and listen, you will be amazed at what you can discover. Here is what I mean: Jody was the owner of a very successful bookkeeping business. She had run the business for 15 years and had a large volume of regular clients. She loved working with her clients but had always wondered what it would be like to write a book. She had mentioned her dream here and there to people, who all told her that she was crazy, but that did not kill the nagging desire in Jody to fulfill this dream. Was it realistic for Jody to drop everything and pursue this? What options did she have for exploring this? While working together, Jody was able to explore this dream with me and look at what all her options could be. How exciting to see the vision become a reality for Jody!

Take a look at the things that truly make you feel fulfilled and happy in both your personal life and work life. Remember a moment when you felt a real sense of accomplishment or fulfillment. What were you doing? How did it happen? Is there something that you feel really passionate about? What have you daydreamed about doing? A great final question to ask yourself is: What would you do if you knew you could not fail?

Looking at the answers to these questions—as well as the realities of income needed, the hours you want to work, etc.—will help get the ball rolling. So get started exploring what you want to be when you grow up. Uncover those hidden dreams and make them a reality!