Air Traffic Controller

**Description:**
Air traffic controllers tell airplanes when to land and take off.

**Duties:**
- Giving instructions on landing and take off to pilots.
- Watch where planes are in the air using radar, or on the ground.
- Give flight path changes to pilots for emergency landings.
- Alert airport emergency services.

**Where and When:**
- Work in air traffic control towers at airports.
- Work all hours, nights, and weekends.

**What or Who They Work With:**
- Computers
- Radar Systems
- Radios or Phones
- Pilots
- Airfield Personnel
- Binoculars
- Cameras
- Flight Simulation Programs

**Education and Training:**
- Most have a high school diploma.
- Many have some college classes.
- Some have a 2 year or 4 year degree from a college.
- Most have on the job training and work experience.
- A person must complete a FAA program, and between 18-30 years old.
- Have 3 years of full time work experience, or 4 years of college or both.
- Must pass a health exam once each year.
- Must pass a job exam two times each year.
- All must pass a test and on the job training.

**Similar Jobs:**
- Locomotive Engineer
- Transportation Technician
- **Airfield Operations Specialist**

**Related School Subjects:**
- English
- Reading
- Writing
- Geography
Computers

Sources:
- VA VIEW Career Search
- ONET Online
- BLS Online

Print:
- Who Are Air Traffic Controllers Level 1
- Who Are Air Traffic Controllers Level 2
- The History of Air Traffic Control
- Aviation Bingo
- Aviation Vocabulary (English and Spanish)
- Air, Water, or Land?
- Science Kids Flight Lesson Plans
- Color a Piper Cub Plane

Read:
- Airport by Byron Barton
- National Geographic Readers: Planes (National Geographic Kids: Science Reader Level 1 by Amy Shields
- Richard Scarry's A Day at the Airport by Richard Scarry
- The Noisy Airplane Ride by Mike Downs
- A Day at an Airport (Time Goes By) by: Sarah Harrison
- The Great Airport Mystery (Hardy Boys, Book 9) by Franklin W. Dixon
- Gila Monsters Meet You At the Airport (Reading Rainbow Book) by: Marjorie Weinman Sharmat
- Airport (Usborne Sticker Books) by Dan Crisp
- Planes at the Airport by Peter Mandel and Ed Miller
- Airport (with magnets) Usborne Magnet Books by Felicity Brooks, Matt Durber, and Gustavo Mazali
- 50 Things to Spot at the Airport (Activity Cards) by Struan Reid and katrina Fearn
- Busy Airport: A lift the flap learning book by Gaby Goldsack and Jan Smith

Explore:
- Career Town Ticket Typing
- NASA Kids Club Lets Fly Away Aircraft Game
- NASA Smart Skies Line Up with Math and Air Traffic Control
- Cyberchase Airlines Builder
- PBS Kids Chicken Blast Off
- NASA Smart Skies Fly By Math Air Traffic Control