



Deciding if Teens Should Work

Encouraging teenage family members to find jobs is one way a family can increase their income during a period of unemployment. Part-time jobs are available that fit into student schedules.

Pay is usually minimum wage, but can make a significant contribution to the family income and help defray some expenses. Parents and teenagers need to discuss and determine the number of hours that can be handled, how the money will be used, transportation, and other issues.

Finding Employment

Jobs are frequently available for teenagers at restaurants, grocery stores, and other retail businesses. Contacting the business directly to fill out an application may lead to a job.

Job Service, newspapers, schools, community bulletin boards, and friends can help direct you to jobs. Teens can create their own employment by advertising their availability for baby sitting, mowing lawns, or hauling hay.

Federal Job Partnership Training Administration funds jobs for teenagers as part of summer youth programs and youth in school programs. County employment and training offices have information on these programs.

Requirements

Proof that you are not an illegal immigrant is required for all employees. In addition to completing Form I-9, available from your local office of the State of Oregon Employment Division, you will need a school picture identification or driver's license with your picture. Social security cards are also required for employment.

Training programs may be required for some types of jobs such as driving a tractor. In some counties, a training program and license may be required for specific jobs such as food handlers.

A publication titled, *Employment of Minors*, is available through the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries, 1400 S.W. 5th, P.O. Box 800, Portland, OR 97207-0800. This publication describes permitted jobs and work hours for 14 and 15 year olds, jobs and hours for 16 and 17 year olds, and prohibited occupations for minors under 18 years. It also describes pay and working conditions.

Work permits are required by young people under age 18. To secure a work permit contact your local high school superintendent's office.

Evaluating Employment Options

Research on individuals who grew up during the Depression and worked to help their families found that work had a positive effect. As adults, they were psychologically healthier and overall were better off for the experience.

Teens who have goals for the use of their earned income do better, according to recent studies. Students who work more than 15 hours per week tend to lose interest in school and their grades drop.

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Youth who have no clear goals for use of earnings spend more on luxuries and develop extravagant spending habits that lead to financial problems as adults. Also, these young people are more likely to spend earnings on alcohol and drugs, according to the studies.

Responsibility, work skills, and self confidence can be other dividends of teen employment.

Here's a list of ways teens' income can be managed. Use it to guide a discussion with your teen on how his or her paycheck will be spent.

- Use a portion for expenses routinely incurred by the teen such as school lunches, clothes, dues, and recreation. Save the remainder for a future education fund.
- Contribute a portion to household budget and keep a portion for the teenager's personal expenses.
- Contribute the entire wages to total family budget and the teen receives an allowance.

For More Information

This publication is one of 13 available in the set, *Managing Between Jobs*, from the Oregon State University Extension Service. The publications provide information to individuals and families facing underemployment and unemployment.

Each title is available without charge. You may order up to six no-charge publications without charge. If you request seven or more no-charge publications, include 25 cents for each publication beyond six. Send order and payment to:

Publications Orders
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EC 1391, *Setting Spending Priorities*
EC 1392, *Strategies for Spending Less*
EC 1393, *Deciding Which Bills to Pay First*
EC 1394, *Talking With Creditors*
EC 1395, *Keeping a Roof Overhead*
EC 1396, *Bartering*
EC 1397, *Making the Most of What You Have*
EC 1398, *Accepting Your Feelings*
EC 1399, *Living Better With Stress*
EC 1400, *Identifying Sources of Support and Friendship*
EC 1401, *How You Can Help When Your Mom or Dad is Unemployed*
EC 1402, *Deciding If Teens Should Work*
EC 1403, *Helping Children Cope*



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