



University of California  
Cooperative Extension  
Tulare County  
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## YOUR FIRST SUMMER JOB

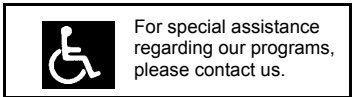
Time for vacations, swimming and for your teen to be bored! There are answers to this problem—getting your teen a summer job. A summer job experience can provide a lot more benefits to a teenager than earning extra money. A summer job offers your teen an opportunity to gain valuable employment skills, foster responsibility, and meet interesting people. Regardless of the type of job your teen secures, general work experience will help your teen acquire knowledge, new skills and maybe help them discover new talents as well.

Gaining work experience during the summer months will give your teen a head start for that future important job or position. Learning how to work with other people, which includes learning to take direction from a manager, are important first steps toward understanding basic work interactions and expectations.

Here are some tips for teenagers on their first job:

- < Know in your first job there will be parts of the job that you don't like. Working is being able to put up with some stuff you don't like and find satisfaction and joy in the parts of the job you do like.
- < If you are having a problem with your boss, try to understand the situation from your boss's point of view. A reprimand by the boss does not necessarily mean the boss does not like you. It may mean you need to re-evaluate your work from your boss's perspective.

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- < If you don't like your job, instead of quitting try to work on developing coping strategies for turning around a bad situation. Weigh the alternatives—the job may only be for a short time but the money is good. If there are things you do not like about the job, realize that this job may be helping you to determine what kind of permanent work you would like to do in the future.
- < The job may seem menial, but it may be an opportunity to learn some important skills and get your foot in the door for your future dream position.

Some young people are ambivalent about getting a summer job because they hear their parents complaining about their work, their boss and or just their job in general. Parents need to make sure they are not only sharing their frustrations and day-to-day irritation about work, but also sharing the satisfaction they get from doing their jobs well.

A large part of a person's life is spent working; feeling good about their job is important. Start early and learn important working skills.

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