Parent-Teen Education Series
Jobs

Sooner or later we all need to get a job. There are better ways than others to go about getting a job. Here are some issues for parents and teens to discuss.

♦ Explore the right job for the right person. Decide what kind of job you (your teen) would be best suited for.
♦ Find job announcements: newspapers, internet, bulletin boards, networking with other people, head-hunters, and employment agencies.
♦ Parent and teen can work together filling out applications and developing a resume (if needed). Be honest about the teen’s experience and qualifications.
♦ Research the company or place of employment prior to the interview. Learn as much about them as you can.
♦ Parents and teens can role play the interview situation so the teen can practice answering interview questions.
♦ Interview etiquette includes: proper clothes, grooming, and manners, as well as answering questions truthfully and openly. Be honest about skills and training and emphasize strengths as much as possible.
♦ Teens: Send thank you letters to potential employers after the interviews - this helps them keep you in mind and lets them know you appreciate the opportunity to work for them.
♦ Teens: If you get the job, send thank you letters to anyone recommending you for the position.

How will this activity promote the parent-teen relationship?

This activity is based upon sharing knowledge from one person to another. Parents can offer guidance and information in ways that allow teens to appreciate and respect their parents’ experiences. Open, honest discussions also help to increase parent-teen closeness.

Parents can learn what kinds of employment their teens would find interesting. This activity offers parents and teens the chance to explore a teen’s talents and skills. Job searching together is another way for parents to learn more about the young adults their teens are becoming.

Keep this in mind . . .

• Since job searches usually start when teens are living at home (summer jobs or part-time after school jobs), it’s the perfect time for teens to practice professional ways of handling job applications, interviews and maintenance.
• The sooner teens learn how to handle jobs in a professional manner, the easier it will be to handle adult responsibilities when the time comes.

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