

TEENAGERS AT WORK – for and against

Everyone knows that some teenagers who still go to school have jobs, e.g. delivering newspapers, shop assistant, fruit-picking, milk rounds and babysitting. If you discuss the question whether teenagers should be allowed to do a part-time job or not, you might think that it will be a very long and difficult discussion because there are so many arguments for and against it. Of course, many people would say that it is good for teenagers to get experience while they are still at school. However, there are also quite a few arguments against part-time jobs for teenagers.

Some people say that teenagers who still go to school do not have enough time to relax when they have a job. As a result, they will not be able to concentrate at school. Not only that, but the teenagers will also not have enough time to do their homework. Consequently, their school results will be bad. What we also must not forget is that there will not be much time left for their friends or hobbies. This is why some people even claim that these teenagers do not have a real childhood. After all, there is lots of time for work when you leave school.

On the other hand there are good reasons for part-time jobs, too.

It is a fact that young people can get experience of the workplace. Furthermore, they learn to handle money. After all, they know that you have to work for it. Take for example someone who does a paper-round every morning - he or she will learn that you must get up early in the morning and cannot sleep late every day. What it comes down to is that teenagers who have a part-time job and earn their own pocket money get a sense of independence and self-respect.

Weighing all the pros and cons I come to the conclusion that there should be strict laws for this matter. Under certain circumstances it can be a very good and useful experience for teenagers if they have a part-time job. One might argue that going to school and doing a part-time job is too much for them, but I cannot share this view. In my opinion young people should start to learn at an early age that you have to work to earn your money. There is no doubt that these teenagers will know the value of money when they are adults. However, it is clear that there must be laws about how long they are allowed to work and also what kind of jobs are okay for them.