

◇ Chapter 13
The Challenge of Change

Enrichment Activities

WORKING WHILE IN SCHOOL

Increasing numbers of teenagers are adding part-time afternoon and evening jobs to their already busy schedules. In fact, you may be one of them.

There are many reasons why teens may work. Some teens work to contribute to the family income. Others work to make money for college, to maintain a car, or to buy things. Still others work to gain experience in a field of interest to them.

1. Can you think of any other reasons why teens might want to work part-time?

How many hours would you realistically have available to work part-time while going to school? Here is one way to find out. Create a one-week calendar and block out time for the following:

- Class
- Homework
- Extracurricular activities
- Daily family time
- Leisure time
- Eight hours of sleep

2. Review your calendar. How much time, if any, would be available for you to work?

3. What was most surprising to you about your schedule?

The Pitfalls of Part-Time Work for Teens

There are some pitfalls to working part-time.

- Often, there are not enough hours in the day. Because school and job hours are both set, the hours needed for homework, sleep, and relaxation may get shortchanged.
- Your grades can suffer as a result of spending too many hours at work and not enough time on assignments and homework.
- Teens, like many adults, can experience the stress of doing too much. It may be hard to recognize until you get sick or feel as if you are falling apart at the seams. When this happens, everything in your life suffers.
- Try to ensure that your part-time job provides you with more than just a paycheck, such as valuable job experience or personal enjoyment. Otherwise, the job can begin to feel like an energy drain.

(Continued on next page)

Name _____

Read Mark’s story below. Does his experience remind you of anyone you know?

4. How does Mark’s story match your experience, or that of your friends?

“I learned the hard way about part-time jobs while being a student,” explains eighteen-year-old Mark. “I worked at a fast-food restaurant and a car wash to earn money to buy a used car. I also had to buy gas and insurance. Three months later, the car needed major work. I didn’t have the money, so I had to work even more hours. My grades went down, and I was tired all the time. Luckily, my parents helped me look for other choices. After a lot of thought, I decided to sell my car. I’m back to biking it and borrowing my folks’ car. But I also have a life. I’m working for a computer graphics firm in town, which is the kind of work I want to do. I enjoy my job, work fewer hours, have time to keep my grades up, and believe it or not, I actually have time to have fun. I wish I had figured this out earlier!”

Mentoring

In some families, parents and teens reach an agreement that the kids can work a few hours a week, if it is in a job where they are working one-on-one with someone in a field in which they are interested.

5. Why do you think this might be important?

Focus In		
Brainstorm four different places teens could work part-time in mentoring environments that would match their own interests. Include one that would match your own skills and interests.		
Teen Interest	Workplace	Mentor
(example: modern dance)	(example: dance studio)	(example: dance instructor)
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		

