

# **Finding a Job Is a Job**

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## **Letter to the Reader**

Finding a job can be hard. In fact, it is almost like a job. You have to work at it. It takes time. There are things you can do wrong that make finding a job harder. There are also things you can do right that make finding a job easier. This book shows you some of the wrong things so you don't make the same mistakes in real life. The book also helps you to do the right things. It shows you why things are poor choices or good choices.

Work through this book with your class, teacher, parent, or counselor. They'll help explain things and help with some of your choices. If you are working with the book alone, it will take you through all the choices and explain the results to you.

While getting a job will still mean hard work, we hope this book will help make getting a job a bit easier.



## Section 1

# Reasons to Get a Job

So you want to work. You want to look for a job. That's great! Having a job is a big part of growing up and being an adult.

But sometimes getting a job isn't easy. There are a lot of choices to make about jobs. That's what this book is all about. It shows you some of the many choices you can make and if they will help you get a job or not.

As you go through this book, you will have to make some of these choices. Pick the one that sounds most like what you think you would do. Then follow the book's directions to see what happens.

First, let's find out why you want a job.

There are many reasons why people want jobs.

Why do you want a job?

- Because my friends have jobs . . . turn to **page 3**.
- Because my family and teachers say I should get a job . . . turn to **page 5**.
- Because I want to earn money to buy things myself . . . turn to **page 7**.



Lots of your friends in school have jobs. They always have so many neat, new things they just bought with their own money.

You want to be able to spend your own money, too. So you start thinking about a job.

Maybe there is someone in your family who can help you get a job. Boy, this is really great!

So you get a job . . . and then find there are some problems. Working was fun at first, but now the long hours are a drag.

Your boss expects you to do things exactly the way you are told. And your paycheck really isn't as big as you thought it would be for all the work you have to do. Your family wants you to start paying for some of your own clothes with part of the money you planned on using for fun! That's not how you thought it's supposed to be. It's your money! Maybe working isn't as fun as you thought it would be.

Every time your friends ask you to do something with them, it seems like you have to work! Your family won't let you stay home from work, not even for that great party this weekend. You hate working!

You decide to call your boss and say you won't be in to work. You tell your boss you don't like your job at all. It's not much fun and you won't be in anymore because you quit!

Oops! Maybe you didn't think about work in the right way. Working because someone else has a job is not a good reason to want a job. Let's start again. Go to **page 7** and find a better reason to work.



You're looking for a job because your family says that you're old enough to work. Even your teacher is saying you should get a job because you're such a good worker.

You're not sure if you'll like having a job. Your folks take pretty good care of you and you like things just the way they are.

Your teacher tells you that there will be job interviews before you find a job. He shows you how to act for them. "OK, let's get this whole thing over with," you think. "I'm only doing this 'cause you're making me."

Your teacher is acting like a manager interviewing you and, as the manager, asks you why you want the job.

You say, "I don't really know. My teacher and family say that I'm a good worker and that I should get a job."

Your teacher wants to discuss with you some reasons why people have jobs.

To find out those reasons and then to look for a job, turn to **page 7**.



One of the best ways to become independent is by getting a job. No job is perfect, but a job that you do well can make you feel good about yourself. It will also help you to take care of your needs.

Earning your own money helps you to get that special T-shirt that Mom thinks is silly. Or you can go to the movies without having to ask the family for money. This is part of becoming independent.

Having a regular work schedule helps you to use your time well. It gives you a good feeling to work with others and get the job done right.

Starting a savings account also helps you to learn more about being independent. This way you can sometimes help with family expenses.

How are you going to go about getting a job?

Will you:

- Think about what kind of things you can do well and that you like to do? . . . turn to **page 9**.
- Have your teacher help you find a job?. . . turn to **page 13**.
- Go around to different places and ask for a job? . . . turn to **page 15**.