

## Article #4 - Teens and Part-time Employment

<sup>1</sup> Getting a part-time job is a decision many teens will make while they are in high school. Teens hold a variety of different jobs, including: lawn mowing, delivering newspapers, babysitting, grocery stores, clothing stores, movie theaters, theme parks, summer camps, pet stores/groomers, and dog walking. For many teens, the experience is positive. For other, though, the experience may be negative. Let's take a close look at both.

<sup>2</sup> There are several benefits to part-time employment. First, teens gain valuable work experiences. Second, they can learn money management skills. Third, teens have a constructive way to spend their free time. Fourth, teens learn to manage their time and develop good work habits. Last, teens gain useful job skills as well as a sense of responsibility and independence.

<sup>3</sup> On the other hand, there can be some drawbacks for teens who work. First, working teens have less time to do their homework. Next, working teens are absent from school more and have lower grades. Last, teens who work are less involved in school activities.

<sup>4</sup> Whether teens experience the benefits or negative consequences from part-time employment seems to depend on the amount of time they work each week. For example, students that work 10 hours or less a week gain the benefits of employment, while students that work over 20 hours a week suffer the negative consequences of work.

<sup>5</sup> Summer employment is an excellent alternative. First, it does not interfere with school. Next, it provides teens with a constructive way to spend their free time. Last, it allows teens to get all the benefits of employment without overtaxing their busy school schedules.