

# TEENS MATTER

## A PARENTING TEENS DIGEST

Boone County Step Ahead Council

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*The gem cannot be polished without friction nor man perfected without trials....Confucius*

### **TEENS AND THE WORKPLACE**

Go to [www.teenworker.com](http://www.teenworker.com) for additional information concerning your teens work requirements, safety issues and laws or call 1-888-TEENWORK for a pamphlet. Another web sit [www.in.gov.labor/childlabor/news.html](http://www.in.gov.labor/childlabor/news.html).

As the school year comes to an end many teens will be looking for summer employment. Here are some common question that teenagers, parents and employers have in regard to work permits.

#### **Do all teenagers need a work permit?**

All teens, 14,15,16 and 17 years of age must get a work permit before they begin a job.

Exceptions include: newspaper carriers, golf caddies, domestic service workers, entertainers, and farm laborers.

#### **How do I get a work permit?**

You must get an *Intention to Employ/A-1 Form* from the issuing officer at the school you attend.

You must then get the signature of your employer and your parent or guardian. Once you have the signatures, take the Intention to Employ/A-1 form, along with proof of age, to the issuing officer and the work permit will be issued. Take it to your employer before you begin work.

#### **How late can teens work?**

The school day hours differ from the non-school day hours for the teen worker. Check to see what those rules are.

#### **How many hours a week can teens work?**

The number of hours teen may work differ based on age, time of year and parental permission.

#### **What kind of jobs are minors prohibited from doing?**

Federal and State law forbids the employment in occupations deemed hazardous.

#### **How much time are teens allowed for breaks and time off for lunch?**

Indiana employers must provide one or two breaks totaling 30 minutes to teens under the age of 18 who are scheduled to work six or more consecutive hours. Exempted from this

requirement are: farm laborers, domestic service workers, golf caddies, newspaper carriers, teens that have completed an approved vocation or special education program, and teens that have withdrawn from school.

#### **I can't find my birth certificate and I don't have a Social Security number. What can I do?**

If you don't have your birth certificate, you can get a copy by contacting the Health Department in the county in which you were born. To obtain a Social Security number call 1-800-772-1213.

#### **I would like to work two part-time jobs. Am I allowed to do this?**

No. You can only hold one work permit at a time and each work permit is issued for a specific employer. If you quit that job, a new work permit may be issued for another job.

#### **I am 16 years old and have put my application in at a place where I will be driving my car to make deliveries for the employer. Someone told me that even though I'm 16, I couldn't drive on the job. Is this true?**

Yes, sixteen year olds are not permitted to drive a vehicle for the employer, even though they have a driver's license. This is one of the prohibited occupations established by Federal and State Laws.

#### **Can the school deny giving me a work permit?**

Yes, if a student's grades and/or attendance do not meet the policies set by the school, they have the right to deny a work permit. We suggest you read the school handbook or check with the issuing officer for your school's policy.

#### **Because I work late, I don't always get to school on time. The school took my work permit away from me. Can they do this?**

Yes. A work permit may be revoked if your attendance or grades drop while you are working. Policy is set by each school. Read the school handbook or check with the issuing officer to see what the policy is at your school. Remember though, there are laws concerning how late you are allowed to work with /or without parental permission.

### **If my school revokes my work permit, is there anything I can do about it?**

Yes, you do have the right to appeal this decision. Appeals should be made to your school principal. He/she would have the final decision.

The decision to work is a major one and should not be based on "all my friends have jobs", but rather on if it's the right thing for your child.

### **LETTING YOUR TEEN DRIVE ON SUMMER VACATION**

[www.travelwithkids.about.com](http://www.travelwithkids.about.com)

Summer is finally here and this starts fun-filled months of "summer vacations!" Although the price of gasoline is climbing every day and there doesn't seem to be any relief in sight, many people will still be taking to the roads to reach their destination. There's nothing like hitting the open road: put the kids in the back, cram in enough stuff to fill a small apartment, and here we go. As the years go by, you will no longer need to pack the stroller, diapers or toys and for a brief moment life seems to be getting a little easier. A rule of raising kids is that another BIG ISSUE is just around the corner. For parents of sixteen-year olds, it may be this: your son or daughter has just obtained a learner's permit, or a driver's license. Long before you leave the driveway, you will hear the words: Can I drive? Your family vacation instantly becomes the focal point of all your teen driving anxieties. It's not easy to turn the wheel over to an inexperienced driver. It is usually the parent or guardians who experience the most stress. Here are a few tips for letting your teen drive on summer vacation.

#### **Learn By Doing**

Teen drivers learn by doing, so the obvious solution is to treat the vacation as an opportunity for you child to practice driving. Statistics suggest that driving errors are the cause of 82% of fatal crashes involving 16-year-old drivers, so teenagers definitely need all the practice they can get.

#### **How To Help**

**You need to watch your own habits** and look at the examples you are setting for your teen. If you're an impatient tailgater-well, act like you're not, when your kids are in the car. Going over the speed limit (because everyone else is) will not be a good excuse when you (or they) see

those flashing lights in your rear view mirror.

Please set good examples for your children.

**Watch you attitude to your children.** They are going to be nervous enough the way it is so you need to remain patient, positive and most of all calm.

**Your job is to be pro-active:** to scan ahead and anticipate dangers, and give ample warning time. **"You are your teen driver's second pair of eyes, so stay alert."** If you find you're losing your cool: pull over, and get everyone settled down. Stopping the car when tempers are hot is a wise action and also good training for you kid(s).

#### **Planning for Safety**

**It's not only your job to scan the road for hazards,** but to think *far* ahead. But I guess that's a part of parenting, isn't it?

**Be sure that you know the rules** about teen drivers in individual states. Check particularly about curfew laws. Some states prohibit teens from driving at night.

**As you approach a major city,** make sure to take the wheel in plenty of time so that the teenager isn't suddenly plunged into heavy traffic and confusing interchanges.

**Double check that you have adequate insurance.**

AND ALWAYS, ALWAYS, ALWAYS  
**BUCKLE UP!**



### ***HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US***

***The Fourth of July is the day we celebrate our country's' birthday. This is a time to reflect on the past sacrifices that many people have made for our freedom. Whether we agree or not on the "how to's" or "why did we" we need to support the people who are away from their homeland, no matter where that may be, to try and help us remain safe and free to live our lives as we see fit. This may not be a perfect place, but nowhere on earth will you find such a place. The USA is as close as you are going to get. We pray for the safety and wisdom for all of the people involved. "Happy Birthday America" and we hope you have a wonderful celebration!***