



Gearing Up For Your Transitions

It's Time to Get a Job

Volunteer and Paid Work Will Help Your Future Career

1. Work is a great way to learn basic skills:
 - Getting along with others • Value of money
 - Job skills • Time management skills
 - New responsibilities • Self-confidence
2. Volunteer work is a good way to get experience when you are not sure what you want to do or how much time you will have to do it.
3. Having a job when you are young will help you to find and keep a job when you are older.
4. If you would rather not work during the school year, consider working only during the summer.
5. Wouldn't it be nice to have work benefits and make more money than what comes from Social Security every month? Did you know, with SSI work incentives, you can go to work and not lose your medical/Medicaid card or your SSI?

6. Ways to gain work experience:

- Volunteer for community work or school projects.
- Work around the house or for neighbors or friends.
- Spend time watching (job shadowing) someone already doing the type of job you want to do.
- Participate in "Take Our Son/Daughter to Work " programs in the spring.
- Work a part-time job for experience and establish a good work record.
- Work a job within the community during the school year as part of the school-work program.

Adapted with permission from The University of Illinois at Chicago