

HELP!!!! I CAN'T FIND A JOB!!!!

Tips to Help You Find a Job

Network Like Crazy

Many kids find jobs through their parents. Talk to your parents and find out which of their friends own or manage their own business. Rehearse a script before you pick up the phone and call them, as in: "My mom is in your book group and she suggested I ask if you could use some help with your landscaping business." Create an opening for future conversations by saying, "Thanks for taking my call. Let me give you my number, so if things change or you hear of anything else, you can contact me. And is it OK if I check back with you in a week or so?"

Go Seasonal

Classic summer jobs – at camps, beach town burger joints and amusement parks – that are only open annually are a good bet. Many retail stores look for help during the holidays as well.

Experiment With Temping

Employers that use temp agencies typically want workers 18 and older but sometimes will take younger teens. Those who have experience with anything that can be described as customer service, including retail, will have an edge.

Check Out Health Care

Contact local hospitals, nursing homes, and retirement communities. These employers might have entry-level jobs that don't require any experience and are perfect for teens. Dress neatly and spend several days knocking on doors, asking to speak to human resources, filling out applications, and inquiring how and when to follow up.

Keep An Open Mind

You may have to get your hands dirty in jobs that may seem low status – washing dishes, cleaning hotel rooms, or hauling trash. Many restaurants hire teen workers. If you are willing to do physical labor, check with construction companies where hiring always picks up in the summer. Or, you may have to volunteer first before they find the money to pay you. Prove yourself.

Stay Strong

Don't get discouraged. You need to cast your net as wide as possible and not give up early. The longer and harder you look, the better your odds.

Make sure you are doing all the right things:

- Dress nicely, even when picking up and dropping off an application. The person taking it may be your new boss – he or she is already judging you!
- Drop off an application with a resume, even if not required.
- Follow up in a few days after dropping off any application.
- If they aren't hiring, ask when you can check in again and keep checking in how ever often they say you should. They will remember you!