

12-16

My child's first Saturday job

A Saturday job will give your child valuable experience, from learning how to speak confidently with new people to managing their own money. However, it's also important to ensure they have time to relax at weekends.



What age?

A child can work part-time from the age of 13 (they can do TV or theatre work at a younger age but will need a performance licence). During term time, children must not work more than 12 hours a week, with no more than two hours on school days and Sundays. On Saturdays, 13 to 14-year-olds can work up to five hours, while for 15 to 16-year-olds, the maximum allowed is eight hours.

59%

of young people say that being in work benefits their wellbeing, and that having a job is good for their mental health.

Source: The Prince's Trust
NatWest Youth Index 2023

Top Tip
As soon as your child is earning a regular income, encourage them to put away some of their wages every week in a savings account.

Who'll employ them?

Chain stores and larger companies don't usually employ anyone below the age of 16. However, smaller, independent shops and businesses are often eager to have a junior to help them out on Saturdays. Play to your child's strengths and interests; for instance, riding stables or farms often need help 'mucking out' the animals; hairdressers look for juniors to sweep up and make teas and coffees for customers. Your child may also be able to earn money by doing jobs for family, friends and neighbours.



"The money from my Saturday job on our local market gives me a sense of freedom."

Claire (aged 15), Wiltshire

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Top Tip
If your child sets up a successful online side hustle, it's best if you put them in touch with a local accountant or business bank manager for advice.

Young entrepreneurs

In this digital age, there are opportunities for anyone to make money online, and that includes children. If they are addicted to social media, they'll likely understand the best ways to optimise social networks such as TikTok and Instagram, which are vital marketing tools for many businesses. Other children may be good at photography and could earn pay-per-use royalties from uploading their shots to stock photo sites. Or, if your child has something to say, is funny, or good at making videos, then a blog or vlog could be an income-earner from advertising revenue. You should monitor their online activity in the same way you would with any other internet usage.



61% of young people say that having a job gives them, or would give them, a sense of purpose in life.

Source: The Prince's Trust NatWest Youth Index 2023

Saturday job ideas

Below is a (far from exhaustive) list of some jobs your teenager might want to consider:

- a paper round
- washing cars
- gardening
- cleaning
- dog-walking or dog-sitting
- babysitting (14+ years old)
- office admin
- hairdressers
- farms and riding stables
- cafés and restaurants
- summer camps and clubs



How much?

School-age children aren't entitled to the National Minimum Wage, so it'll be a matter of negotiation with their employer. Tell them not to say yes to an offer immediately, but to ask the employer for a day to consider and check with their parents. There is no harm in the employer knowing that you are watching your child's back. Children aged 16 to 17 are entitled to at least £5.28 per hour and must be paid through PAYE if they earn more than £123 a week.



“Our son is so much more confident since starting his job at the tennis club.”

Adrian, Birmingham