

For Parents

Talking about Workplace Safety with Your Teen

We know what our kids have been hired to do, but do we really know what goes on each day at their work? You may think you've had all of the important "safety" conversations with your teen – but, have you talked to them about *workplace* safety?



Young people, aged 12-19 have the **highest likelihood** of injury, almost twice the proportion of adults. (Stats Can)

Below are some topics you may want to explore with your teen during supper, while watching T.V., or even in the car:

About the Workplace...

- Has anyone ever been hurt at work? Does it happen often?
- What tasks do you do? (e.g., Do you lift heavy objects? Cook with an open flame? Work near running equipment or machines?)
- Did you get trained for all the tasks you have to do? Was safety addressed?
- Do you know what kind of safety gear to wear and how to use it?
- Tell me about the equipment you work with...
- Do things get fixed when they are broken?
- Do you know what to do in case of an injury or emergency (location of First Aid kit, names of staff with First Aid training, emergency numbers, etc.)



About the People

- Does your employer take safety seriously?
- Have you ever been asked to do anything you thought was unsafe, or 'felt wrong'? Have you ever seen someone else doing something unsafe?
- Does your supervisor work in, or near your work area?
- Do they provide feedback and advice on how to do your work safely?
- Do you feel comfortable asking your supervisor questions?
- Do you report safety concerns to your supervisor?
- Do you report your work injuries to someone? Near misses?





About Your Teen

- Do you sometimes feel tired at work?
- Do you find your cellphone is distracting to you in your job?
- Do you ever feel under pressure to work quickly?
- Do you ever work alone? If yes, does your employer have a regular check-in system?

Worker Rights

- Did you know that we all have rights around our safety at work?
- What would you do if you were asked to do something you thought was unsafe?
- Is there someone at work you can talk to if you feel a job isn't safe?
- Would you feel comfortable refusing a job that you didn't think was safe?



The Three Basic Rights

The *Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Act* gives every worker important rights:

1) The right to know

You have the right to know the hazards in your job. Your employer or supervisor must tell you about anything in your job or workplace that can hurt you. Your employer has the responsibility to ensure that you know how to perform your work tasks safely. Don't be afraid to ask your supervisor for 'refreshers' on how to do a task you've already been trained on.

2) The right to participate

You have the right to take part in keeping your workplace healthy and safe. Depending on the number of employees, you can be part of the Health and Safety Committee or be a Health and Safety Representative. And you can always ask questions or make suggestions about how to make your workplace safer.

3) The right to refuse unsafe work

If you believe something in your job or workplace is likely to endanger you, or others, you have an obligation to report the unsafe situation to management. If the situation is not corrected and you feel your health and safety is still at risk, you have the right under the *OHS Act* to refuse to perform the work without being fired or disciplined. A good work ethic means being conscientious, but it does not mean doing everything you're asked to do. If you feel unsafe doing a task at work, say something! No job is worth risking your health or life.