

Should children be able to work?

Over the past few years there has been a constant debate on whether or not children (up to 18 years old) should be able to work. I believe that children have an infinite potential and should not be deprived of this privilege to be able to work and earn money just as their parents do. Who are we to stop them from grasping opportunities to help them along the journey of life?

By working, children are introduced to an endless amount of opportunities and experiences to help them develop in life. Since every child has to work in the society someday, to have this experience in their youth affects them very much and children can learn many things from it. For instance, in 2014 David Beckham, footballer millionaire, allowed his son Brooklyn (aged 15) to work at a local café. Despite being millionaires, his parents decided that it would be a good way to increase his social skills and build his independence. This shows us that even though the money may not be necessary getting a job can prepare a child for the future.

If a child was to get a job they could enhance their social skills. On average children aged 5-16 years spend 6 ½ hours in front of electronic screens per day. The fact that so much of their lives are wasted on electronic devices is so appalling, atrocious and disgusting. By gaining a part-time job, children can use that precious time, wasted on electronics, to contribute to their future. Whilst flying through game after game children mindlessly waste prolonged periods of time brainwashed by these electric screens. This is a major problem. If they were to take up a part time job they would learn how to use that time efficiently and would spend it being more productive instead of lazing around.

By getting a job children will learn how to manage time and plan efficiently. This is extremely important if they are to enter the adult world as they will need to not only work but find time to rejuvenate and stay healthy. If they are not able to balance out their work, then they could become stressed and potentially lose or quit their job. In 2016, the UK alone had 573000 teens homeless and unemployed. This is a major problem as many young adults will not know how to handle responsibilities and could end up like this. If they took up a part-time job whilst in school, they could make an easy transition into the adult world; if they are suddenly forced into the adult world with no experience then there is a high chance of them becoming overly stressed and developing anxiety. Anyone would hate to be in a life damaging position like this or see it happen to a loved one so we shouldn't be holding them back from such opportunities when we know the risks.

By not letting them have this opportunity we are holding back their infinite potential unlike many other countries around the world. Many Middle-Eastern countries already allow children to work, enabling them to learn the skills they will need to survive when they are old enough to raise a family of their own. In America, 50% of teens have/have had some form of employment by the age of 12. This will allow them to get out into the real world and help make decisions on which academic path they choose to follow. By not allowing the children of the UK to experience this we are holding them back. We could even go as far as saying that the UK is behind and slow in progress whereas other countries are evolving already.

In conclusion, I believe that even though the prime importance for children is studying, they would definitely benefit from having a part-time job. Some may say there are risks of child exploitation and child labour, however if our country is truly named **Great** Britain, then we should be able to trust one another like brothers and sisters to look after the future generations of our country and help them in every way to shape it for the better.