

## First Job

My son has, at times, been known to exhibit a sense of entitlement. We often wondered if we were ever going to get him to understand the value of a dollar. Well, it looks like we might be making headway. He got his first actual job this Summer. He's working in the warehouse doing good old fashioned hard work. He's keeping the warehouse clean, keeping the tools organized and doing general help of the tenured employees.

This job is doing so much more for him than just allowing him to get a paycheck.

1. **Commitment.** After his first day, he was so exhausted. He said, "I'm not going back." We helped him realize that he had made a commitment and it was the right thing to fulfill that commitment. He agreed and now looks forward to working with "the guys".
2. **Pride in his work.** Even though he may not be doing complicated tasks at his job, he has started seeing that it's much more enjoyable if you do your best at whatever you're doing. I went to pick him up one day and arrived a bit early, so I got to watch him work. He was scurrying around the warehouse and taking pride in what he was doing. I was very proud.
3. **Education is important.** Up until this point, he really didn't think college was very important. As he's been able to hang out with the older guys at his work, they've been able to help him realize that unless he goes to college and gets an education, he very well may be doing this sort of very hard labor as his career. While he respects what they do, he now knows that he would prefer a different career and is looking forward to getting the education necessary to obtain a different career path.
4. **There's no such thing as a money tree.** There was a particular part for his paint ball gun that he really wanted. It's a \$150 part, so we told him at the beginning of the summer that he would have to earn the money for it himself. Well, after his first 2 weeks of hard work and receiving his paycheck, his dad said, "So, do you want me to take you to get that part?" To which my step son replied, "No way. I worked too hard for that. I'm saving it!" Yay!

Now that he's a little more than a month into his summer job, he's now asking about financial planning ideas, making his lunch to save money and not taking as much for granted. I'd say this has been a very successful summer so far. ☺

On an extra note, I found a great article by Dave Ramsey that helps young children establish entrepreneurial roots. [http://www.daveramsey.com/article/young-entrepreneurs-create-their-own-wealth/lifeandmoney\\_kidsandmoney?atid=davesays](http://www.daveramsey.com/article/young-entrepreneurs-create-their-own-wealth/lifeandmoney_kidsandmoney?atid=davesays)