

CONVERSATION STARTERS

SAFE WORK AND YOUR YOUNG WORKER

You may think you've had all the important conversations with your kid - don't do drugs, drink responsibly, don't text and drive - but, have you talked to them about their safety at work?

Nearly 5000 young workers between the ages of 15-24 are injured at work in Manitoba each year and since 2005, we've lost 17 young people to workplace incidents. As a parent, you can help protect your young worker from becoming a tragic statistic by asking questions about the safety of their workplace and their work tasks. It also means educating young workers so they expect a safe workplace and should talk to their supervisor if they feel unsafe.

So, how do you get the safe work conversation started?

ASSUMPTIONS

Parents may feel that it is the responsibility of the workplace to do everything possible to keep young workers safe. And, while it is true that an employer bears the greatest responsibility for providing and maintaining a safe workplace, what if the workplace is still unsafe? Would your kid take a risk without fully understanding how to protect themselves? Results from SAFE Workers of Tomorrow surveys show that nearly one third of young workers would put themselves at risk rather than speaking up.

QUESTIONS TO GET THE SAFE WORK CONVERSATION STARTED

- When you started your job, did you receive a safety and health orientation?
- Do you feel your workplace is safe?
- Have you ever seen someone at your work do something that you considered unsafe?
- Would you feel comfortable telling your supervisor that you don't feel safe doing a task?
- How comfortable do you feel asking your supervisor to show you how to do a task safely at work?

HOW TO RESPOND

Let kids know:

1. Your employer is required to provide you with a safety and health orientation when you start a new job and has the responsibility to ensure that you know how to perform your work tasks safely.
2. 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, don't do it. Talk to your supervisor, a co-worker or your parent.
3. No job is worth risking your health or life.
4. If asked to do something at work for the first time, make sure that you have been trained to do it safely and don't be afraid to ask your supervisor for training.