

PARENTING AS A CAREER

For some parents, parenting is their full-time career. Other parents have careers in addition to parenting. Young adults, whether considering parenting as a single- or dual-career option, should compare parenting to other careers. Ask one of your parents to help you complete the chart below.

CAREER: TEACHER	PARENT	TEACHER
Preparation received before getting a job	None (maybe prenatal classes)	4 years of college Student teaching
Hours of responsibility	24 hours a day 365 days a year	8-9 hours a day 9 months a year
Place of work	All over!	School building
Salary	None, possible tax write-off	\$18,000 beginning salary
Overtime pay	None	Extra pay for advising coaching, etc.
Pay raise based on merit	None	Increases each year
Sick leave policy	None	10 days/year
Professional or personal leave policy	None	4 days/year
Retirement plan	None	401K
Health or life insurance plans	None	Good health and life insurance

1. In terms of responsibilities and preparation for responsibilities, how does parenting compare with other careers?
2. In terms of the benefits listed on this chart, how does parenting compare with other careers?
3. What are some benefits of parenting that are not included in the chart?
4. How can filling out a chart like this be helpful when recognizing the responsibilities of becoming a parent?