



Concern

What it means: Developing "concern" isn't about worrying; it's about actively caring about your future and understanding that your choices now impact your career path. It's about taking ownership and responsibility for your development.



Why it's important: When teenagers show concern, they are more likely to be proactive and seek opportunities. Psychological studies (like Erik Erikson's Theory of Psychosocial Development) suggest that having concern during teenage years builds "purpose," the ability to set meaningful goals and act on them. Concern helps you prepare for future challenges rather than ignoring them.



How You Can Develop Concern

Insight



Imagine your lives 5, 10, or 15 years from now. What kind of work do you want to do? What lifestyle do you envision? What impact do you want to make?

Example: Arya keeps a journal where they regularly write about their ideal future job, including the responsibilities, work environment, and how it aligns with their values. This regular reflection builds a sense of personal investment.





Insight



Understand how the skills you learn (in school, hobbies, or part-time jobs) are transferable and valuable professionally.

Example: Teja, who is struggling with a math concept connects it to its application in engineering, a field they are considering. This understanding shifts their perspective from "just another subject" to "a building block for my future." A teenager playing football with friends learns how to work together, share ideas, and support each other.

Insight



Participate in community service, school projects, or internships that expose you to real-world problems and the skills needed to solve them.

Example: Chaitanya volunteers at a local animal shelter. They learn about the operational challenges, resource management, and the dedication required, which helps them consider careers in non-profit management or veterinary services with a clearer understanding of the realities.

Insight



Understand the link between career choices, earning potential, and financial independence. This can be a strong motivator for taking career readiness seriously.

Example: Kiran, a high school starts a small side hustle (e.g., tutoring, internship). Through this experience, they learn about managing expenses and the effort required, which fuels their desire for a stable and fulfilling career in the future.



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