

Advocating for your student

8 ways you can help your student with a disability prepare to transition out of high school into employment.

Getting Around

- Knowing how your son/daughter's disability affects his/her coordination, mobility and ability to complete tasks can help professionals working with your child work more effectively with him/her.

Method of Operating

- Being able to describe your son/daughter's disability to a teacher or job coach by giving examples of how he/she successfully accomplishes tasks at home can give clues on how to best approach your child in school or with vocational tasks.

Routine

- Set up routines for your son/daughter to follow at home. Exploring different approaches will help you find the one (or more) that enables him/her to be as independent as possible (use pictures and technology as needed).

Triggers

- If your son/daughter has challenging behaviors that are triggered by specific events/words, being able to explain these triggers to others can aid in maintaining a positive relationships by avoiding known stressors.

Independence at Home

- Giving your son/daughter some responsibilities at home and encourage them to try new things can make finding a job or building work skills more familiar to them. It can be hard for some to make the mental switch that they are in charge of tasks at work if they have not had the experience of being responsible for a task before.

Prepare for Vocational Services

- Signing up for the waiver with your DDD case manager if your son/daughter does not already have one can ensure that he/she may one day be eligible for long term job support funding.

Communication

- Helping your son/daughter learn functional communication will aid him/her in being able to understandably express needs in the community and in the work place.
- Maintaining clear communication with the professionals (educational/vocational/case management/etc.) in your son/daughter's life can ensure that everyone is working towards a common goal and helps you to avoid surprises when your son/daughter exits high school.