

School-to-Work Transition

Parents as Advocates & Allies

New Horizons Un-Limited

new-horizons.org

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New Horizons Un-Limited Mission

- Provide access to the information, technology and training that will empower youth and adults with disabilities to create positive change in their own and others lives.
- We believe that people with disabilities and their family members, must actively contribute to public policy debates and decisions

New Horizons Un-Limited Services

- **Advocacy**
 - Let's Get to Work Coalition
- **Career Exploration and Training**
 - IT Career Paths
- **Computer Literacy & Access**
 - Basic Training and Grants of Refurbished PCs
- **Online Information & Referral**
 - new-horizons.org

Define Success

- How do you define success for your child?
 - Is it a college degree?
 - A paid job?
 - A volunteer job?
 - An active life?
 - A happy life?
 - A secure future?
- Success can take on many different forms!

Preparing Your Child for Success

1. Actively participate in IEP and transition planning
2. Identify, foster and enhance interests and skill sets
3. Foster leadership skills in your child
4. Identify and apply for post-school, adult services and supports
5. Identify and utilize natural supports

Parents as Advocates & Allies

- YOU are your child's #1...
 - Advocate
 - Motivator
 - Provider
 - Role Model
 - Friend
 - Teacher, etc.

Parents as Advocates & Allies

- YOU and your child must make things happen
 - Service providers, counselors and teachers do not have a magic solution
 - YOU and your child hold the key to success
- Parent Tip
 - Not all service providers are created equal
 - Don't waste your time trying to convert a nay-sayer, keep looking until you find a provider who believes in, and will fight for your child

Attitude is Everything

- “You may have a fresh start any moment you choose. For this thing we call "failure" is not the falling down, but the staying down.”

–Mary Pickford (co-founder of the film studio United Artists)

- Allow failures to fuel your fire
- Replace I CAN'T with I WILL
- Take a break, and begin again tomorrow

Guiding Your Child's Interests

- Assessment Tools and Exercises
 - Career Exploration
 - Career Clusters Interest Survey
 - breitlinks.com/careers/career_pdfs/InterestSurvey.pdf
 - Personality Assessment
 - Jung Typology Test
 - humanmetrics.com/cgi-win/JTypes1.htm

Developing Your Child's Skill Sets

- Hard Skills – skills that are taught in an educational setting
 - Writing, grammar, punctuation
 - Basic math (i.e. change and bill counting)
 - General computer usage (i.e. typing, web searches, e-mail, printing, etc.)
 - Software applications (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)

Developing Your Child's Skill Sets

- Do not fear, but EMBRACE Technology
 - YOU and your child MUST BE computer literate
- Technology resources will enhance hard skills:
 - **GCF Learn Free - gcflearnfree.org**
Computer, math, reading and career basics
 - **Apps (Smartphone, tablet, iPad)**
The sky is the limit

Developing Your Child's Skill Sets

- **Soft Skills – skills that are developed through experience and guidance**
 - Sense of responsibility
 - Confidence
 - Pleasant demeanor
 - Honesty/integrity
 - Organizational skills
 - Time management
 - Good hygiene

Developing Your Child's Skill Sets

- **Parent Tip**
 - Do not facilitate dependency
 - Expect your child to do things for him/herself
 - Give him/her a sense of responsibility and accountability through higher expectations

Fostering Leadership Skills

- Facilitate participation in:
 - Family/home activities (i.e. daily/weekly chores, following a simple recipe)
 - School activities (i.e. school newspaper, attending social/sporting events, etc.)
 - Community/recreational activities
 - Self-determination and leadership training

Developing Your Child's Skill Sets

- Do not dismiss the value of unpaid opportunities
 - **Volunteering**
 - **Volunteer Center of Greater Milwaukee**
www.volunteermilwaukee.org
Jeanne Phillips
jphillips@volunteermilwaukee.org
(414) 273-7887
 - **Mentorships/Job Shadowing**
 - **Disability Mentoring Day (DMD)**
Wednesday, October 17, 2012
Local DMD Coordinator
Ali Kriofske-Mainella
akriofske@independencefirst.org
414-291-7520 V/TTY

Fostering Leadership Skills

- Check out Wisconsin Youth First
wiyouthfirst.org
 - A statewide group of youth with disabilities that fosters leadership skills through participation and self-determination

Identify Services and Supports

- **Milwaukee County Disability Resource Center**
 - Will determine eligibility and assist with application for Family Care, SSI, Title XIX, etc.
- **Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)**
 - Provides funding for employment-based services
- **New Horizons Un-Limited**
 - Provides information and guidance on available disability resources and services
 - new-horizons.org/rsclif.html
- **Independence First – Milwaukee County CIL**
 - Provides a range of services to youth and adults with disabilities
- **Life Navigators**
 - Provides a range of services to youth and adults with disabilities
- **Milwaukee Center for Independence**
 - Provides a range of services to youth and adults with disabilities

A Team Builds the Road to Success

- Gather a trusted group of motivated individuals:

- Family
- Friends
- Neighbors
- Peers*
- Colleagues
- Others?



*Peer-to-peer support proved instrumental in motivating students toward employment

A Team Builds the Road to Success

- This team will address issues such as:
 - Care needs
 - Identify formal programs and out of the box alternatives
 - Career development
 - Serve as, or identify mentors, job prospects
 - Financial planning
 - Identify benefits, trust options
 - Housing options
 - Research various living situations (supported living, independent apartment, etc.)

A Team Builds the Road to Success

- This team will address issues such as:
 - Recreation
 - Identify integrated and peer-to-peer social opportunities
 - Skill development
 - Ask each team member to work on a specific skill (i.e. how to take the bus)
 - Transportation
 - Brainstorm on alternatives to public transportation

Action Items

- Plan to attend:
 - **So, You Want to Work**
Saturday, April 21, 2012, 8:30am – 12:00pm
Children's Hospital of Wisconsin
9000 W. Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53226
RSVP: 414-266-3188 or jturkoske@chw.org

Action Items

- Please take 15 minutes to complete our parent survey. Also available online:
 - new-horizons.org/srvytr.html
- Download presentation resources
 - new-horizons.org/stwprs.html