

National Center on Deaf-Blindness



Transition Activities

Community Connection: Opportunities with Animals

Topic:

Community Connection: Opportunities with Animals will help your son/daughter develop work related skills within the home and the community that will aid in job success as an adult.

Overview:

There are a number of employment opportunities around working with animals. It would be beneficial if your son/daughter experienced at least one in order to discover his/her preferences around them.

The purpose of this activity is to provide three experiences with animals. They can be three different ones, or three times with the same experience.

Outcomes for your child's transition development:

Your son/daughter will determine possible interest in employment opportunities that involve animals, considering work conditions that are preferred and work conditions that he/she may not want to experience.

Activity Directions:

1. Discuss the opportunity with your son/daughter but leave some unanswered questions that he/she can ask about when he/she initiates the opportunity. Ask your son/daughter to get basic information (make a list of questions) but talk it over with you before deciding when to schedule.
2. Have your son/daughter make contact with the person in charge, explaining that he/she will need to also discuss it with his/her parents and will get back to them with a specific plan.
 - a. He might say, "Hi. My name is . . . I am 16 years old and am interested in seeing if I like working with animals. I'm calling to find out if there are any volunteer opportunities with you."
3. Ask your son/daughter to make a plan for how it could work. Things he/she should think about:
 - a. Transportation - Who? When available? Bus?

- b. How often? Which day or days?
 - c. How many hours? Does he/she need to pack snacks or a lunch?
 - d. Are there any risks involved?
 - e. What does he/she know about his/her own preferred conditions that might come into play? Might he/she be uncomfortable in this environment? Why? What could be done about it?
4. You want your son/daughter to be as independent as he/she is capable of being. This activity would make a great photo opportunity. If this can occur without parent's participation, all the better.
 5. After each experience, your son/daughter should think about and possibly record his/her impressions and experience and answer the question, "Is there an employment possibility here?"

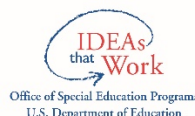
Ways to either Simplify or Increase Complexity:

Ideas for Simplifying Activity

Visit friends with pets. Help with petting, grooming, feeding, cleaning, etc.

Ideas for Increasing the Complexity of the Activity

- Increase expectations for the planning, scheduling, finding transportation, etc.
- Make an experience book or power point presentation using photos of the experience.



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