

National Center on Deaf-Blindness



Transition Activities

Volunteering: Making Community Connections

Topic:

Volunteering: Making Community Connections will help your son/daughter develop work related skills through his/her chores or volunteer experiences for job success as an adult.

Overview:

Volunteering is a way to practice skills of social competence, communication and learn to perform specific tasks. It establishes community connections that can lead to opportunities for job exploration, job shadowing, conditional employment, or full employment. It also helps a child develop civic-mindedness. The definition of civic-mindedness is actions, activities or individuals that are motivated by or that show concern for the public good or humanity as a whole. Doing community service and running for public office are examples of activities motivated by civic-mindedness.

The purpose of this activity is to build community connections through volunteering opportunities.

Outcomes for your child's transition development:

Your son/daughter will increase in his/her multiple work-related skills by volunteering in the community.

Activity Directions:

The following list of places that may provide volunteer opportunities is by no means exhaustive. Choose one of these or create a new opportunity based on your community resources.

Nursing homes

Golf course

Public offices

Humane society

Hospital

Community recreation center/athletic club

Food pantry

Parks/playgrounds

Community centers for the arts

Goodwill

Day care settings

Movie theater

Recycling center

1. Give your child choices and help him decide what he'd like to do.
2. Facilitate the contacting of the organization and any follow up on-site visits that may be required.
3. Look at a calendar of the month together and choose 3 times during the month that the volunteering can take place.
4. Follow-through
5. Follow up discussion after each experience:
 - a. What are you liking—why?
 - b. What are you not liking—why?
 - c. What changes would make it perfect?
 - d. Do you think you'd like a regular job doing this?

Ways to either Simplify or Increase Complexity:

Ideas for Simplifying Activity

Look for opportunities that are more social in nature than skilled in nature. For example: a greeter, visits with elderly, delivery.

Ideas for Increasing the Complexity of the Activity

- Add a travel route using public transportation.
- Require your child to secure a driver using the skills learned earlier this year.



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