Preparing for Post-Education and the Benefits of Early Employment Experiences
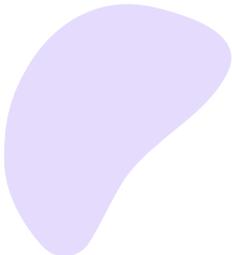
Housekeeping

- For educational and quality control, we will be recording this zoom session.
- By participating, you are consenting to being recorded.
- Before this session is shared, we will edit to remove identifying information to protect your privacy.
- The Q&A section will be removed and only be shared as an anonymous transcript
- To ask a question, please type it in the chat box

About Us

Crystal Hence

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ACE Training Associate

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VCU RRTC-
Rehabilitation Counselor

What We Want to Talk About….

Preparation ----- 01

Building a support network

Focusing on the discovery process early

Getting work experience while in school & at home

Benefits ---------- 02

Transferable Skills
     Why are they important

Self Determination
     How being able to advocate for yourself helps

Getting Connected ---------- 03

Understanding services & resources

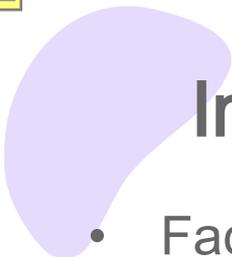Learn about various transition programs

Questions & Answers ---------- 04
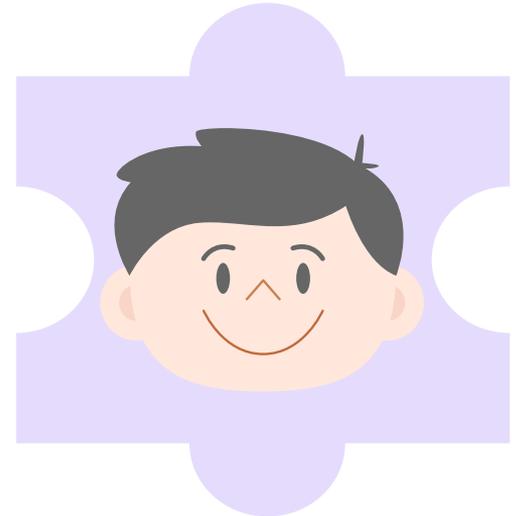
Let's talk about it!

Importance of Early Employment Experiences

- Facilitates early collaboration and connection among the student, family, and school staff

- Allows for the discovery of students' interests and abilities

- Better prepares students and families for transition

- Empowers students to be self-directed

- Can enhance overall quality of life

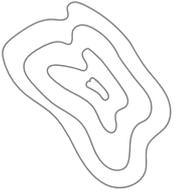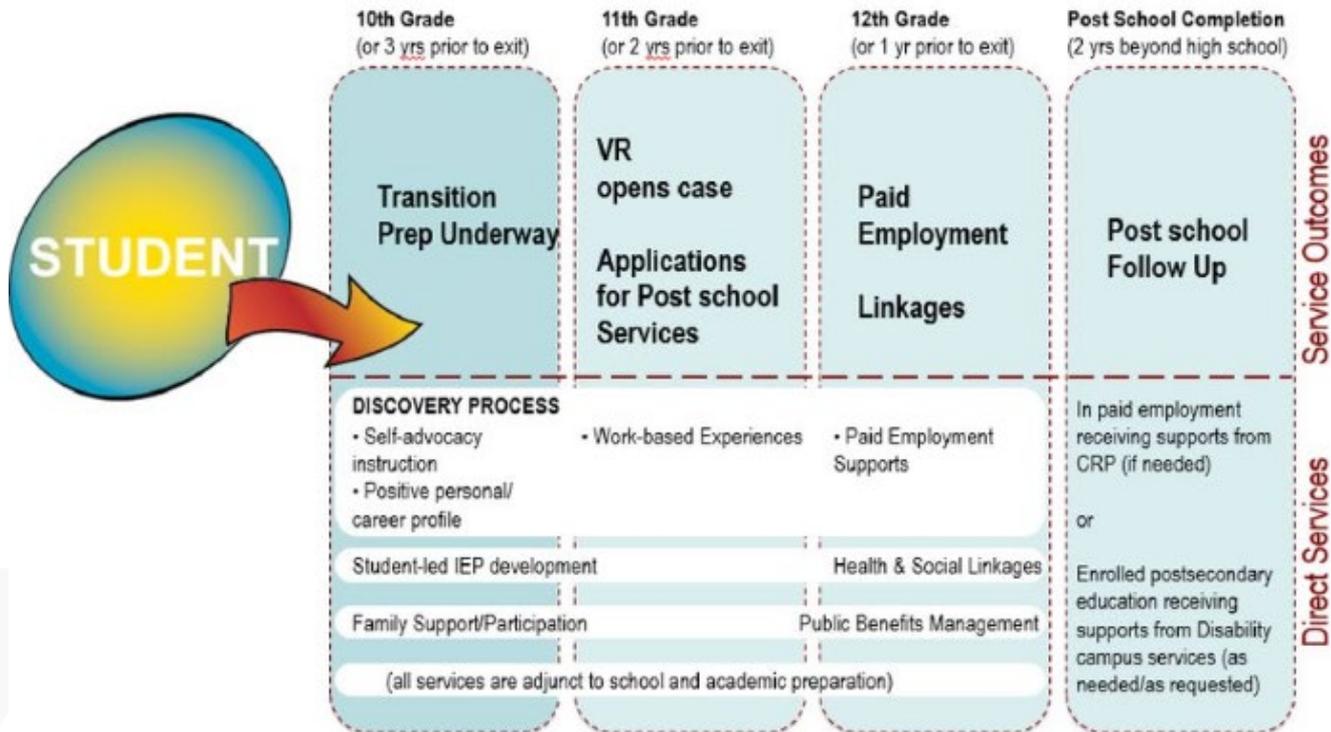# Who Can Support?

Parents/
Guardians

Teacher/School Based

Students

Voc Rehab
Service Providers

Flow of Student Services

10th Grade (or 3 yrs prior to exit)	11th Grade (or 2 yrs prior to exit)	12th Grade (or 1 yr prior to exit)	Post School Completion (2 yrs beyond high school)	
Transition Prep Underway	**VR opens case** **Applications for Post school Services**	**Paid Employment** **Linkages**	**Post school Follow Up**	Service Outcomes

DISCOVERY PROCESS
- Self-advocacy instruction
- Positive personal/ career profile

- Work-based Experiences

- Paid Employment Supports

In paid employment receiving supports from CRP (if needed)

or

Enrolled postsecondary education receiving supports from Disability campus services (as needed/as requested)

Student-led IEP development

Health & Social Linkages

Family Support/Participation

Public Benefits Management

(all services are adjunct to school and academic preparation)

Direct Services

Reflect on Current IEP Goals

Are they SMART Goals?

Are they individualized to my student intern?

Are there specific objectives to meeting these goals?

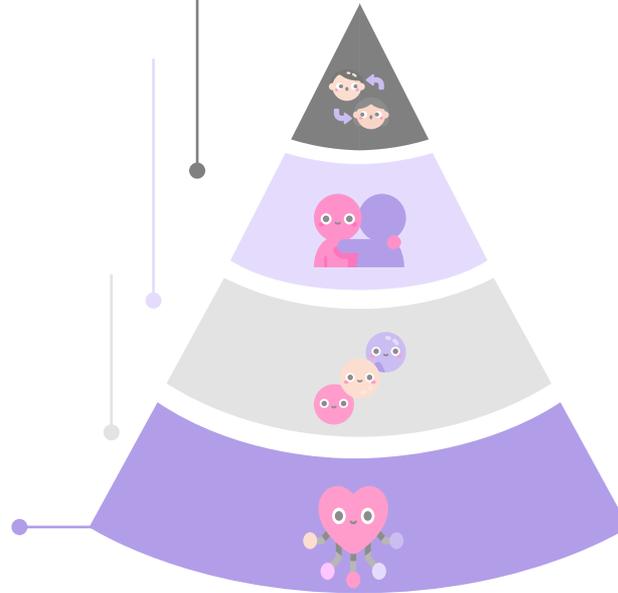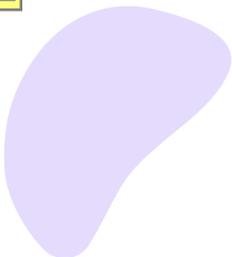Are they meeting the needs of my student/intern?

Transferable Skills

Abilities that you develop throughout life

Soft and Hard Skills

Skill set that is beneficial in many roles

Can transfer across many environments

Promoting Transferable Skills at Home

- Choose activities that help promote communication and other social skills
- Choose activities that help build self-determination skills
- Engage in activities that require focus/ concentration
- Work on stamina/ endurance

Implementing Activities at Home
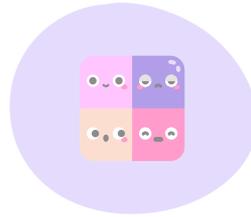
Chores/Cooking

Exercise

Routine

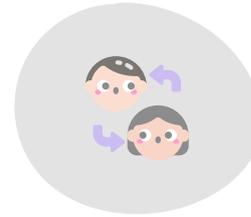**Using Timers**

Schedules

Choice Boards

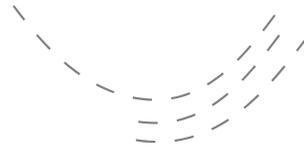# Promoting Transferable Skills at School

In School Vocational Tasks
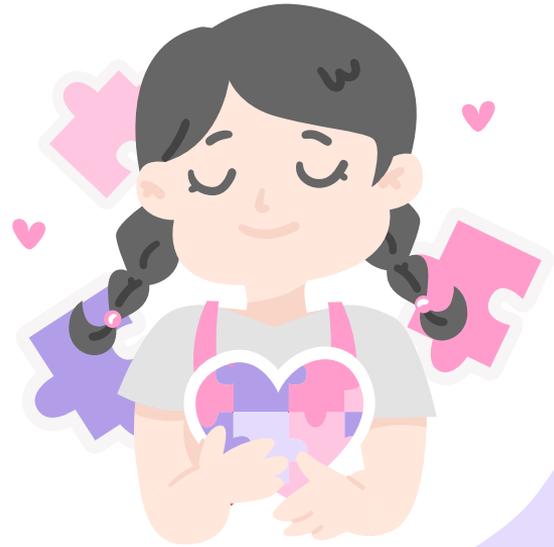
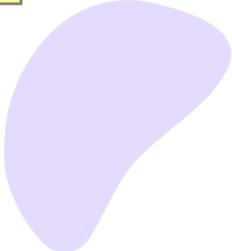**Community Based Work Opportunities**
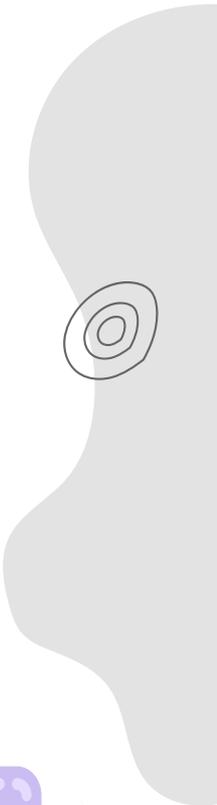
Tasks that Promote Teamwork

Self Determination Theory

- Belief in one's abilities to achieve goals

- Increases motivation to enhance skills

- Strengths exploration and self advocacy

- Promotes autonomy and independence

Promote Self Determination

- Start while the student is in middle school or as early as possible
- Collaborative effort to uncover abilities and interests
- Create opportunities for discovery to take place
  - Community activities
  - Family and friend connections
  - Online resources
- Create space for open discussion for discovery to take place
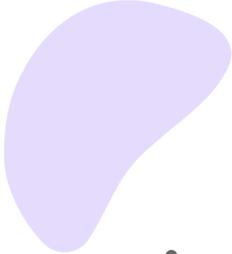
Getting Connected to Services

- DARS = Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services
    - Contact your local office to begin the referral process
    - The following services are provided…
        - Help individuals with disabilities to find and maintain integrated, competitive employment
        - Connect clients with job coaches
        - Pre-ETS (PreEmployment Transition Services)
        - Connect families to their local community service boards for additional resources
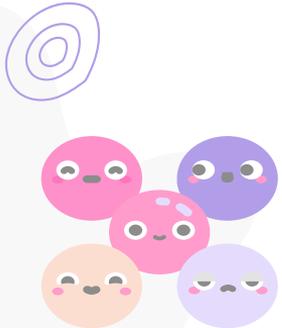
# Examples of Transition Based Programs
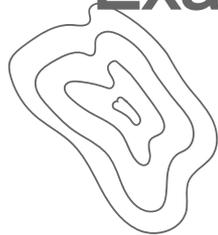
Pre-ETS

ACE-IT

Project SEARCH

Resources

- Department of Aging and Rehabilitation Services https://www.virginia.gov/agencies/department -for-aging-and-rehabilitative -services/

- Community Services Board http://www.dbhds.virginia.gov/community -services-boards-csbs

- VA Department of Education http://www.doe.virginia.gov/special_ed/transition_svcs/index.s html

- ACE-IT- https://aceitincollege.org/

- CTI Workplace Readiness Handbook - https://centerontransition.org/transition/employment/workpla cereadinessskills.html

- Pre-ETS- https://vcurrtc.org/businessconnections/pre_ets/

- Project SEARCH- https://www.projectsearch.us/who -we-are/
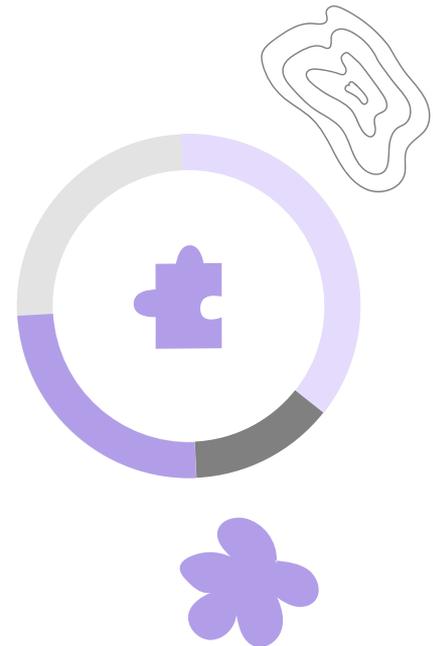
Let's Talk About it!

For additional questions or more information

Please visit:

www.vcuautismcenter.org

Or

E-mail: autismcenter@vcu.edu

VCU

Upcoming Topics

Date	Topic	Presenter
May 6th	Autism and the Black Family	Maria Davis-Pierre, LMHC