

Family Advocacy Training

Module 3: Pulling It All Together

Welcome to the Promise Parent learning module series. This module is called Pulling It All Together, to begin the career planning process.

You will:

In this module you will learn how to use the information you gathered about your child to identify career clusters and begin career exploration.

Career Exploration

You have spent a lot of time thinking about your child-his or her interests, traits, skills, and ideal conditions for employment. There is one more piece of the puzzle to consider to begin career exploration. We need to think about common job themes and career clusters. Let's take a look.

Career Clusters and Job Themes

Schools often use the term "Career Clusters" to talk with students about different career fields. These are broad job categories, and not specific jobs. For example, if your child likes cars, the related career cluster is transportation.

What's great about career clusters is that they can introduce us to more possibilities. This can be especially helpful if you feel your child has an unrealistic job goal. For example, perhaps your child wants to fly commercial airplanes, play professional football, or become an actress but because of his or her disability or other factors these careers might be unlikely. A good way to handle this is not by lecturing or telling your child what he or she cannot do. Instead, identify the related career cluster and work with your DVR counselor and school staff to set up experiences and explore jobs so that your child can learn what is possible.

Career Clusters Activity

Complete the online [Career Clusters Survey](https://careerwise.minnstate.edu/careers/clusterSurvey) (<https://careerwise.minnstate.edu/careers/clusterSurvey>) to identify potential interest areas for your child.

You can use [Career Clusters Survey Worksheet \(https://promising-practices.com/training/handouts/guide_career-clusters.pdf\)](https://promising-practices.com/training/handouts/guide_career-clusters.pdf) to take notes if you want.

Take a minute to think with your child about his or her interests and identify his or her top three choices.

Example

Let's check out an example of a team that pulled all of this information together to find a good job match.

Remember Angelo? After he and his team pulled all of his information, they helped him explore jobs within music-related businesses, since one of his career clusters was the arts. They arranged several job shadows and work experiences. After some research they found a small company that repaired instruments and sold rare, hard to find sheet music and requested a job shadow.

At the job shadow the owner learned about Angelo's interest in music and shared that they were hoping to find someone part time to take care of online orders and customer calls. After the job shadow, the team followed up with the owner and asked if Angelo could do a work experience there. After three weeks, the owner hired Angelo for 20 hours a week! The match was a win-win for both Angelo and the employer.

Opportunities to Explore

Like Angelo, your child needs to opportunities to explore interests and experience 'real world' jobs. Two ways your child can explore are through job shadows and work experience. Click on the screen to learn about these.

A job shadow is when you "shadow" or watch what a person does on the job. Job shadows give people a good idea about what it really entails to do a particular job.

A work experience is where you actually work on the job for a few weeks to test it out and see if it's a good fit. They can be paid or unpaid experiences. These are great opportunities.

Next Steps

Now it is time to meet with your DVR counselor and school team to review all the information you gathered. As a team, brainstorm possible businesses. Try to be creative and think beyond the typical places.

Keep in mind that trying different jobs could mean having a bad experience or changing job goals, this is ok, it is a normal part of the career planning process.

Conclusion

This concludes the parent training module on putting it all together.

If you have questions about this module or need help, talk to your DVR counselor about your questions or concerns.