

## Utah Parent Center Resources When Considering the Employment Options for Your Child or the Youth That You Work With!

The Utah Parent Center, in partnership with the Utah State Office of Rehabilitation and Utah State Office of Education, are working to provide more information to parents and students about transition issues as they begin to forge and discover new areas while planning for the future.

### Online Training

The Utah Parent Center's YouTube Page ([www.youtube.com/user/UtahParentCenterUPC](http://www.youtube.com/user/UtahParentCenterUPC)) has a wide range of online trainings on employment and more. Click the links below to view these online trainings:

- [From NO Where to KNOW Where: Transition to Adult Life Training](#)
- [Getting and Keeping the First Job](#)
- [Successful Employment Stories](#) →
  - [Successful Employment: Eric's Story](#)
  - [Successful Employment: Dave's Story](#)
  - [Successful Employment: Ethan's Story](#)
  - [Tips from Experienced Parents](#)

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#### Get Social with the UPC:



The Utah Parent Center also has several recorded webinars focusing on transition and employment issues. Click the links below to view:

- [What Parents and Youth Should Know About Transition](#)
- [Developing Executive Functioning Skills for the Workplace](#)
- [Essential Skills for Finding, Getting and Keeping a Job](#)
- [What Students with Disabilities Need to Know About Going to College](#)
- [Planning for Employment for Students with Disabilities](#)

### Website Resources

Visit [www.utahparentcenter.org/resources/transitiontoadult/](http://www.utahparentcenter.org/resources/transitiontoadult/) to download any of the following resources:

- From NO Where to KNOW Where: A Handbook for the Transition to Adult Life (English and Spanish)
- USOE Transition Action Guide
  - A wide range of information sheets including: What is Transition?, That Help is Available?, Employment, Empowering Parents, Graduation, Helping Youth Develop Soft Skills for Home and Job Success, Transition Ideas for Those with Significant Disabilities, and many more!

## **Understanding the New Vision for Career Development**

### ***The Role of Family***

Today's youth face a challenge in preparing for an ever-changing world of work. For youth to find a career path that interests and motivates them, they should first engage in the three phases of career development: self-exploration, career exploration, and career planning and management. Families who make career development a high priority will help ensure their son or daughter is adequately prepared to pursue his or her postsecondary and employment goal immediately after high school graduation and continuing throughout adulthood. Families should also find out if their school is using Individualized Learning Plans, which can assist all youth in career development starting as early as middle school. Because ILPs identify career and life goals, they can help youth with disabilities and their families in developing their IEP transition plans. In addition, they can help ensure that high school coursework and activities are truly meeting their intended purpose of preparing all youth to be college and career ready. [Click here to read more!](#)



## **Helping Youth Develop Soft Skills for Job Success:**

### ***Tips for Parents and Families***

Soft skills are the skills, traits, work habits, and attitudes that all workers across all occupations need in order to obtain, maintain, and progress in employment. These include being dependable, punctual, adaptable, positive toward work, and appropriately dressed/groomed. Soft skills also refer to such attributes as the ability to get along with others, work in teams, attend to tasks, work independently, and take initiative. Soft skills help youth succeed not only in employment but also in postsecondary education/training and social situations. The following information describes soft skills in more detail and provides guidance on how to develop these important skills. [Click here to read more!](#)



## **Helping Youth Build Work Skills for Job Success:**

### ***Tips for Parents and Families***

Youth with and without disabilities can increase their chances of successful employment by acquiring the work skills that employers seek. Families need to be aware that youth develop these skills from a variety of sources, including through the influence of family life and activities. Families are partners in the effort to build work skills. By providing opportunities for youths to build and practice key work skills, families can set the stage for a lifetime of employment success and community participation. [Click here to read more!](#)

## **President Obama Signs Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Into Law**

On July 22, President Barack Obama signed the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) into law. The [signing ceremony](#) was a showcase for the importance of national workforce education and development to economic recovery. It included the release of [Ready to Work: Job-Driven Training and American Opportunity](#), a federal-wide effort to ensure “that federally funded training programs are singularly focused on getting more Americans ready to work with marketable skills.”

WIOA will become effective on July 1, 2015, the first full program year (PY) after its enactment. However, the act includes several provisions that become effective on other dates. For example, Governors must submit Unified State Plans pertaining to workforce investment programs, adult education and vocational rehabilitation to the Secretary of Labor on March 1, 2016. In addition, the WIA performance accountability section remains in effect for PY 2015, with the new WIOA performance accountability provisions taking effect at the start of PY 2016 on July 1, 2016.

Following the signing, both the departments of Labor and Education announced WIOA implementation resources and outreach efforts to their stakeholders. Bookmark the OCTAE [WIOA Reauthorization website](#) of resources for information on the act and links to the resource websites of the department of Labor and vocational rehabilitation.

## **Free Materials Available to Assist Young Workers in Strengthening “Soft” Skills**

The U.S. Department of Labor’s Office of Disability Employment Policy now offers two free career development resources designed to sharpen the communication and other “soft” skills of young workers, both with and without disabilities.

The “Skills to Pay the Bills: Mastering Soft Skills for Workplace Success” series includes a classroom-style curriculum and a set of videos with an accompanying discussion guide. Both resources are targeted at youth, ages 14 to 21, in both in-school and out-of-school environments. The curriculum comprises modular, hands-on, engaging activities that focus on six key interpersonal skills: communication, enthusiasm and attitude, teamwork, networking, problem solving and critical thinking, and professionalism. The video series also addresses these six themes and can be used separately or as a complement to the curriculum. Mail-order DVDs of the videos include a guide with “conversation starters” to help spark discussions among youth about the importance of interpersonal skills to career and personal success.



These products were created based on the results of a survey of prominent businesses that determined what they believe to be the most important competencies and skills for young workers. Nearly three-quarters of

employers indicated that high school graduates often lack basic job skills, such as punctuality and the ability to communicate verbally and work productively with others.

“Dressing appropriately, showing up on time and networking with co-workers are all crucial to finding and keeping a job,” said Kathy Martinez, assistant secretary of labor for disability employment policy. “For many young people, these skills are not intuitive. We hope educators, human resource professionals, job clubs and faith-based organizations will use these materials to help our youth build the skills to succeed in the workplace.”

Youth service providers, educators and others who help young job seekers prepare for employment can access the “Skills to Pay the Bills” curriculum and video series on ODEP’s website at [www.dol.gov/odep/topics/youth/softskills](http://www.dol.gov/odep/topics/youth/softskills) or order them in hard copy, free of charge, at <http://promotions.usa.gov/odep.html#youth>

## **Utah Parent Center Upcoming Events**

### **Healthy Transition**

**Tuesday, November 4, 2014, 6:30 p.m. -8:00 p.m.**

Utah Parent Center, 230 West 200 South Suite 1101, Salt Lake City

To register call 801-272-1051 or 1-800-468-1160

*Preparation for the transition from pediatric to adult health care including services and funding.*

### **Parents as Partner in the IEP Process**

**Wednesday, November 5, 2014, 6:30 p.m. -8:30 p.m.**

Vista Education Center, Rooms 1525 & 1535, 97 South 200 East, Farmington

Register online at: <http://conta.cc/10g1BWQ> or call 801-402-5120

*Parents are important members of the IEP team.*

### **Assistive Technology at Home and School**

**Thursday, November 6, 2014, 6:30 p.m. -8:30 p.m.**

Vista Education Center, Rooms 1525 & 1535, 97 South 200 East, Farmington

Register online at: <http://conta.cc/1qPe0pY> or call 801-402-5120

*What’s out there and how can it help? What apps work?*

### **Adult Services**

**Monday, November 10, 2014, 6:30 p.m. -8:30 p.m.**

Morgan High School, 55 North 200 East, Morgan, Utah

Register online at: <http://conta.cc/1taBXNa> or call 1-800-468-1160

*Introduction to different agencies providing services to people with disabilities!*

## **Preparing Special Needs Students for College**

**Tuesday, November 11, 2014, 6:30 p.m. -8:00 p.m.**

Utah Parent Center, 230 West 200 South Suite 1101, Salt Lake City

To register call 801-272-1051 or 1-800-468-1160

*Information will be given on Campus Club, Aggies Elevated and Disability Resource Center.*

## **Self Determination: Whose Decision Is It Anyway?**

**Wednesday, November 12, 2014, 6:00 p.m. -7:30 p.m.**

City Academy Charter School, 555 East 200 South, Salt Lake City

To register call 801-272-1051 or 1-800-468-1160

## **Utah County Transition Mini-Conference**

**Thursday, November 13, 2014, 8:30 am – 3:00pm**

ScenicView Academy, 5455 N River Run Dr., Provo, Utah

**Cost is \$10 – includes lunch!**

Register online at: <http://conta.cc/1vdUd7J> or by calling 801-272-1051.

Topics covered will include: From NO Where to KNOW Where: The IEP and Transition Plan, Self Determination: Whose Decision Is It Anyway?, State Services Presentation and Agency Fair, and Plan for the Future: Employment and Post-Secondary Education.

## **Plan for the Future: Employment**

**Monday, November 17, 2014, 6:30 p.m. -8:30 p.m.**

Morgan High School, 55 North 200 East, Morgan, Utah

Register online at: <http://conta.cc/1v6Tlk6> or call 1-800-468-1160

*Planning for the future, preparing your young adult for employment and understanding vocational rehabilitation.*

## **Transition Q & A with Agency Representatives**

**Tuesday, November 18, 2014, 6:30 p.m. -8:00 p.m.**

Utah Parent Center, 230 West 200 South Suite 1101, Salt Lake City

To register call 801-272-1051 or 1-800-468-1160

*The Utah Parent Center welcomes representatives from Vocational Rehabilitation, Division of Services for People with Disabilities (DSPD) and more for this question and answer session.*





## **Adult Services**

**Thursday, November 20, 2014, 7:00 p.m. -8:30 p.m.**

South Valley School, 8400 S Redwood Rd., West Jordan, UT

Register online at: <http://conta.cc/1v4XiJL> or by calling 801-272-1051

*Introduction to different agencies providing services to people with disabilities!*

## **From Homework Horror to Homework Happiness**

**Thursday, December 4, 2014, 7:00 p.m. -9:00 p.m.**

Utah Parent Center, 230 West 200 South Suite 1101, Salt Lake City

Register online at: <http://conta.cc/Zoq78a> call 385-646-4190

*If you are struggling to help your child with his or her homework, this workshop is for you!*

## **Community Events**

- **Utah Assistive Technology offers a FREE online interactive training.**  
Wednesday, October 29, 2014 3:00-4:30 p.m.  
Go Baby Go: Power Mobility for Young Children with Disabilities  
More information and to register email Storee at [storee.powell@usu.edu](mailto:storee.powell@usu.edu) or by phone at 435-797-7412.
- **A Guide to Services: Serving People with Disabilities of Various Cultures**  
Thursday, October 30, 2014, 1:00- 4:00 pm, USU Tooele Regional Campus, OR  
Monday, November 3, 2014, 1:00-3:00 p.m. Salt Lake County Building  
For more information and to RSVP, please call Lynelle at 435-797-8807 or by email at [lynelle.chenn@usu.edu](mailto:lynelle.chenn@usu.edu)
- **Planning for Special Needs: Legal and Financial Steps Caregivers Can Take**  
Tuesday, November 11, 2014 6:30-9:00 pm, Sorenson Center, Utah Valley University  
In this workshop, the presenters provide a checklist and blueprint of important steps to take; explain the Federal benefits available and how to preserve them; describe legal tools such as trusts that benefit Special Needs specifically; and in general outline the options available for individuals and families dealing with these important issues. Visit <http://www.supportuvu.org/gifts-in-action/events/seminars.html> for more information or contact Vicky at 801-863-5425 or by email at [Vicky.Hopper@usu.edu](mailto:Vicky.Hopper@usu.edu) for more information and to register.
- **BYU Social Skills Study for Boys and Girls Ages 12-17 with Mild to Moderate ASD**  
To have your qualifying child participate, they must have weekly transportation to BYU for 8-12 weeks; be a member of a community group such as scouts, church youth group, or sport team; attend this community group independently; and have fluent language abilities in English. For more information or to participate email [autism@byu.edu](mailto:autism@byu.edu) or learn more at [www.autism.byu.edu](http://www.autism.byu.edu).

## Utah Parent Center Information Disclaimer



**Serving Utah families since 1983**

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