

How to Raise **Employment** and **Career-Ready** Kids: **Start Young and Repeat... Often!**

Sometimes just trying to get your kid to graduate school seems hard enough! Sharon Picken and Maralyn Ellis, experienced parents of students with IEPs and founders of RBHS's IEP Parent Support Group and AutismJobClub.ca, share tips with parents on how to ensure your neurotypical or exceptional child is gaining the pre-employment training necessary to be ready for that first 'real' job... or their future education and/or career!

Tips on **GETTING JOB READY!**

- △ What might be your barrier(s) to employment? (transportation, anxiety, interviews, etc.)
- △ Determine a strategy to help with this barrier(s). (walking distance, meditation, job prep, etc.)
- △ Seek out opportunities that add to your experience. (volunteering, co-ops, social groups, etc.)
- △ Prep courses, hobbies, interests, sports... all these help prepare you for the workplace!

Resources

Youth Job Connection

<http://www.tcu.gov.on.ca/eng/eopg/programs/yjc.html>

Social Thinking Skills Training

<http://slhunterspeechworks.com/>

Tips on **FINDING A JOB!**

- △ Think about what you're interested in & why... and "aim low" (maybe with part-time or volunteer work!)
- △ Tell everyone you know you are looking for a job as they may help! (relatives, friends... neighbours)
- △ Create a great resume (start at myBlue-print.ca/halton!)
- △ Approach people with your resume... with specific work opportunities in mind (from your personal network... to local businesses)

Resources

Local Businesses - commuting distance -
within commuting distance of your home!

Volunteer Halton's Database

<https://halton.cioc.ca/volunteer/?Use-VOLVw=54>

Employment Agencies / Programs

i.e. Youth the Future

<http://www.ccrw.org/programs-and-services/youth-the-future/>