



School To Work

for Secondary School
Students with Disability

Tips for Schools

Use these methods to build the capacity of families and students with disability to transition successfully from school to work

- **Connect families** who can support one other to create employment pathways for their sons and daughters with and without disability. Connection methods might include
 - a self-sustaining peer group
 - information nights
 - brainstorming sessions
 - helping families to connect with other families outside the school community
 - or simply providing a room for families to meet around a shared interest eg. sewing
- Foster **high expectations** about work by sharing stories about possibilities.
- Encourage families and students to develop a **Vision Statement** during Year 7.
- Show families how to develop a **Discovery Profile** which documents their child's
 - strengths, interests and attributes
 - work conditions for success
- **Tell families what you have noticed** about their child's strengths, interests, attributes and conditions for success.
- To help students learn about the workforce, give families and students **access to written and video material** that show different work roles, careers, industries, and tasks.
- Support students to make choices about work experience by looking for **individualised placements** that match their skills, interests and attributes
- When looking for work experience placements
 - be open to accepting a **Discovery Profile** from students' families
 - use the student's Discovery Profile to look for placements that match their strengths, skills and interests, and conditions for success

- Let families know that **they can arrange work experience placements with employer hosts**. These placements will be insured by the school provided they meet Work Experience guidelines so that the safety and well-being of students are protected during the placements.
- When approaching employers for work experience placements
 - use **positive language** to describe each student’s capabilities
 - be open to arranging the work experience during hours that suit the employer and student, for example, one morning per week for a term
- Support and promote individualised work experience placements **outside the school**, so that potential employers can see the capabilities of students. This may lead to great references, personal career advice, and offers of paid work in the future. **When employers see people with disability demonstrating their capabilities in valued work roles, they are more likely to employ people with disability in the future.**
- Ensure school staff who support students on work experience placements
 - know how to do **task analysis** and **systematic instruction**
 - **capture** the student’s specific learning and **share** this with the family. Ask them to document
 - the tasks that were attempted and completed
 - the kinds of support or prompts that were provided (checklists, verbal prompting, demonstration)
 - which of these prompts were most successful
- Give families information about **accessing the NDIS** to support their child to access work experience and Australian School Based Apprenticeships
- Point families towards **helpful School to Work resources**. You’ll find a selection of resources including webinars, workshops, a workbook, and stories on [Imagine More’s website: imaginemore.org.au](http://www.imagemore.org.au)



We can provide consultation, training, and additional resources on these topics. Please contact our School to Work Project Coordinator, **Fiona McIntosh**.

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