ROAD TO INDEPENDENCE

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Jenks Public Schools
The Beginning
Begin early, if children don’t learn to work they are unable to hold a job.

Give them age and ability appropriate jobs

Pay them when they meet realistic standards

Do not pay them for things expected, i.e. going to school, taking a shower.
Road sign “here & now”
When working...WORK

- Teach them when at work be focused on task. Not talking, listening to music, calling friends etc.
- **Respect**: learning to be respectful to people is vital to success in any situation.
- Set an example
- Giving routine chores helps develops independence:
  
  be clear on task, praise any part done well, if not right help problem solve, assure them next time will do better, backward chaining.
Road signs “motivation” and “individuality”
What motivates your child?

- Use those things to help motivate your child to stay focused and do the job well.

- Begin with your Childs' natural interests and talents

- What is your child's currency?

- Find opportunities to explore and refine those areas
Success

Failure
The dignity of risk

- If you don’t allow your child to learn from their mistakes it damages their confidence.

- Let them know that making an effort even if unsuccessful counts.

  - Point out the things they did right.

  - Help them to problem solve.

  - Encourage them to try again.
Road sign “your career”
What employers look for

- Dependability
- Initiate tasks on their own
- Quality more than quantity (as long as speed increases to standard)
- Take pride in their work
- Act like they enjoy their work
Road sign "possibilities"
Focus on **possibilities** rather than disability

Look at jobs in parts, if you can not perform the entire job many times a portion will be carved out for someone.

Be creative, what supports can be put in place to make the task doable

Be an advocate for your child….NETWORK

**Learned helplessness is the worst disability of all!**
Road signs “The Truth Just Ahead” and “vision”
- Set realistic goals
- Where to live
- Where to work
- Community involvement
- People in their life
Funding

- Vocational Rehabilitation
- DDSD
- Private Pay
Look for opportunities for inclusion

Inclusion benefits everyone

- everyone learns to work and live together
- everyone learns to accept diversity
- increase chance of participating in community
The worst thing you can do for the ones you love are the things They could and should do for themselves.

John Wooden
Former UCLA coach
Resources

DDSD
http://www.okdhs.org/

Voc Rehab
http://www.okrehab.org/

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