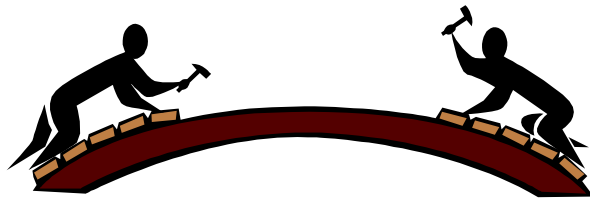


A Student's Guide to Jobs



*A guide especially for
students with significant disabilities
such as mental retardation
and autism*

A publication of NICHCY—
the National Information Center
for Children and Youth
with Disabilities
P.O. Box 1492
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This *Student's Guide* package includes this printed booklet and an audiotape entitled *A Student's Guide to Jobs*. A companion *Technical Assistance Guide* entitled *Helping Students with Cognitive Disabilities Find and Keep a Job* is available separately for families, teachers, transition specialists, and employers.

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Cory



**"We send maps all around
the world..."**

Where does Cory work?

Cory works at the U.S. Geological Survey in the mail room. He works five days a week.

What does he do?

When people ask for maps of the United States for trips or school projects, Cory finds the right map and mails it to them.

What does Cory say about working?

He likes it! He has learned a lot of new skills.

Joe



“Do you know rock and roll?”

Where does Joe work?

Joe works part-time at a drug store in Falls Church, Virginia.

What does he do?

Joe vacuums the floor and cleans the glass doors in the store. He also tears boxes apart. The store has to get rid of lots of boxes every day. Joe uses a special key to cut and tear the boxes apart. Then he folds them flat.

What does Joe say about working?

“Work make money. Put it in my bank account.”

Rob



*"New releases, drama,
comedy, adventure..."*

Where does Rob work?

Rob works at a Blockbuster Video Store in Chantilly, Virginia. He has worked there 3 nights a week for the last 3 years.

What does he do?

Rob puts the videos back on the shelves. He puts almost 400 videos back a night! He also cleans the shelves.

What are Rob's special skills?

Rob has a great memory! He knows where all the movies go. His boss says, "He's just a great worker."

Martin



**"Martin feels he's making
a positive contribution..."**

Where does Martin work?

Martin works at the police station near his home on Acoma Pueblo in New Mexico.

What does he do?

Martin sweeps up and keeps the police station clean.

What does Martin like about his job?

Martin likes things to be neat and clean. He's proud to be working with the police and to make their station look good.

Christian



"I do most of the lasagna work."

Where does Christian work?

Christian works 3 days a week at Lido's Restaurant in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

What does he do?

Christian is a cook's assistant. He gets the lasagna ready, puts dates on the pans, and puts the pans in the freezer.

What are Christian's special skills?

Christian has always loved to cook. He finished a two-year college program in cooking. And now he cooks for a living!

Kathy



"There are a whole bunch of people out in the world who need to get out and get a job...and be just as independent as I am..."

Where does Kathy work?

Kathy works at a car dealership in Falls Church, Virginia.

What does she do?

Kathy works in the office. She puts papers neatly in files, keeps track of the inventory, works on the computer, answers the telephone, and does the paychecks.

What are Kathy's special skills?

Kathy is very active and independent. She's worked hard to learn how to do something new every year.

James



"I'm a very innovative guy."

Where does James work?

James works at the Wild Flour Bread Mill in Fairfax, Virginia.

What does he do?

James cuts up fruit such as apricots that are used in baking. He also grates zucchini that's used to make zucchini bread.

What are James's special skills?

James is very careful with the sharp scissors he uses to cut up fruit. He likes to go out to the local offices and sell the bakery's food.

Elliott



**" Work, take a little time,
don't make mistakes."**

Where does Elliott work?

Elliott works at the Windflower Craft Store in Fairfax, Virginia.

What does he do?

Elliott cuts up material for the books the craft store makes.

What are Elliott's special skills?

Elliott brings a lot of energy to his job. When he runs out of work, he says you have to ask for more.

A Poem by a Windflower Craft Store Poet

This poem and the poem you can hear
on the tape were written
by young men with autism, neither of
whom speak aloud. These poems appear
in this *Student's Guide* through the
generosity of Windflower Craft Store.

I Cried One Night by Rudin

I cried one night
when it was all dark outside.
When no one heard
and my mind
played tag with the wind.
Inside me is a small little voice
that only I can hear
or so I thought.
Where are the words that others speak
that I so want my mouth to say.
Then on my arm a feather fell
and I heard a nearby bird.
I lifted up my head.
My heart joined his
and I was not afraid.

The *Student Guide* series is a product of the National Information Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities (NICHCY). NICHCY also disseminates other materials and can respond to individual requests for information.

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