Prepared and Ready: Equipping Students for Meaningful Post-secondary Opportunities Clinician Resource Guide



Shelby Miller, SPT
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
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Post-secondary Transition Planning for Students with Disabilities

Timeline for Post-secondary Transition Planning

It is recommended that this guide be used as early as possible in order to enhance patient care and optimize patient success. This guide can be used to inform practice and develop plans of care that prepare the student from a young age by incorporating relevant interventions. Always make the interests and preferences of the student the first priority. Starting interest exploration early allows for authentic development of post-secondary goals and preferences. The student's independence and self-determination should be developed and fostered from an early age by offering choices and engaging the student in decision-making.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) stipulates that post-secondary transition planning must begin by age 16 at the latest. However, planning should begin as early as possible, with many elements being a concern throughout life. For example, starting household chores should be implemented as a prevocational task as early as possible and physical fitness should be considered throughout life. Consider care transition elements as early as possible in order to be ready to take necessary action steps at the appropriate time. For example, when the student is age 10: start looking in the community for an adult doctor who has some experience with people with disabilities in order to set the groundwork for looking at options in moving their medical home from pediatrics to adult care; start to talk to the student about transition of care in order to begin the prep work of preparing the student and parent's mindset for self-determined adult independence; begin using self-determination questions with the student in order to get them involved in decision-making (i.e. Would you want a female or male/young or old/loud or quiet doctor? Tell me four words to describe a doctor that you would want.)

Post-secondary Transitional Elements to Consider

There is a wide array of post-secondary transitional elements to consider in planning for transitions to adulthood for students with disabilities. These categories involve various dynamics of life, including living, working, and playing. You can use "other" to customize this list or add notes. The following components are important post-secondary transitional elements to consider and address:¹⁻⁷⁷

- o Interests and preferences of the student
- o Physical activity/fitness/exercise opportunities
- Health and wellness
- Nutrition resources
- Recreation
- Leisure activities
- Social opportunities
- Social skills
- o Relationships

including friends; romantic; family; work

- Community access
- Transportation
- o Travel skills
- Employment opportunities
- o Healthcare coverage and insurance
- o Medical home primary care provider transition from pediatric to adult care
- o Transition of all medical care providers from pediatric to adult care
- o Living situations

including independent living or community living facilities

- Household management
- o Cooking and meal preparation
- o Financial management

including budgeting; bills; money handling

o Personnel management

including how to give caregiver direction; how to treat caregivers; caregiver payment; caregiver scheduling

o Equipment management

including who to call; how to get in touch with equipment maintenance personnel

- o Safety and emergency planning including security (locking the door, answering the door); first aid (kit, how to use, replacing supplies); evacuation; fire fighters; emergency medical personnel, smoke alarms; hospital (how to call an ambulance, when to call an ambulance); emergency list (essential numbers and addresses for reference); scenario planning (what to do if ...you hear a noise in the night; the ride-share driver takes you somewhere you didn't want to go; a stranger approaches you; you are being led into a dangerous situation)
- o Dressing
- o Toileting
- o Eating
- o Self-care, bathing, and hygiene
- o Problem-solving skills
- o Independent choices and decision-making
- Self-advocacy
- o Self-determination²²
- Student involvement in Individualized Education Plan (IEP) goals to promote student-centered care²³
- o Other:

Resources for Help with Post-secondary Transition Planning

There are a variety of useful online resources that can aid clinicians in addressing post-secondary transition planning for their students. You can use "other" to customize this list or add notes. Potential helpful resources include:²⁸⁻⁴²

- National Technical Assistance Center on Transition²⁸
 https://transitionta.org
- National Center on Secondary Education and Transition²⁹
 http://www.ncset.org
- National Alliance for Secondary Education and Transition³⁰
 http://www.nasetalliance.org/about/standards.htm
- North Carolina Division on Career Development and Transition³¹
 http://ncdcdt.org

- o Transition Coalition: Assessment Reviews³²
 https://transitioncoalition.org/tc-assessment-reviews/?cat_ID=48
- Division on Career Development and Transition: Fast Fact Sheets³³
 https://community.cec.sped.org/dcdt/publications/fast-facts
- Pediatric APTA: Transition Fact Sheet³⁴
 https://pediatricapta.org/includes/fact-sheets/pdfs/TransitionFact Sheet.pdf
- Seek Freaks: Predictors of Post-Secondary Outcomes³⁵
 https://www.seekfreaks.com/index.php/2017/04/04/18-predictors-of-postsecondary-outcomes-and-what-ots-pts-slps-can-do-now/
- CDC: Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child Model³⁶
 https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/wscc/model.htm
- CDC: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Services³⁷
 https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/cp/treatment.html
- Office of Disability Employment Office³⁸
 https://www.dol.gov/odep/topics/youth/
- Public Schools of North Carolina State Board of Education Department of Public Instruction: Disability Resources³⁹
 https://ec.ncpublicschools.gov/disability-resources/intellectual-disabilities
- Center for Parent Information and Resources: Transition to Adulthood⁴⁰ https://www.parentcenterhub.org/transitionadult/
- Zarrow Center for Learning Enrichment⁴¹
 http://www.ou.edu/education/centers-and-partnerships/zarrow
- Got Transition⁴²
 https://www.gottransition.org/providers/index.cfm
- o Other

Work Preparedness for Students with Disabilities

Incorporating Work Preparedness into Plans of Care

There is a need to consider functional evaluation and intervention related to work preparedness in order to enhance the futures of students with disabilities. The tools provided in this guide can be used to draw focus on the student's authentic interests and preferences, foster their capabilities, and optimize their opportunities as engaged members of the community. Remember that engagement can happen in a number of different ways and is self-determined by the student. This clinician resource guide should be used to inform practice and guide the incorporation of work preparedness and readiness into plans of care from an early age.

Therefore, clinicians can improve not just the current lives of the students as they help to cultivate accessibility and independence in the school setting, but also the future lives of students as they help to equip them up for meaningful post-secondary opportunities. Clinicians should seek to promote independence both in current setting and in the development of skills needed to foster independence in the future. Clinicians should help students thrive in safe and efficient access of their school and work environments and completing tasks, while also preparing them to grow into work opportunities as a part of functional transitional planning.

Compendium of Evaluation Checklists, Tools, and Measures

Please refer to the accompanying "Compendium of Evaluation Checklists, Tools, and Measures" document provided with these materials as a descriptive compendium to be used to inform physical therapy evaluation of students with disabilities related to work preparedness.

Work Preparedness Physical Therapy Interventions

Self-determined goals and planning should be used to inform long-term physical therapy plans of care for the student. Consider the student's long-term goals based on interests and preferences, then work backwards down the chain to develop a timeline for working towards those goals. Interventions should also be informed by evaluation and assessment tools related to work preparedness. Specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, time-based (SMART) goals should be developed in coordination with interventions. You can use "other" to customize this list or add notes. The following interventions are important to consider and address related to work preparedness: 1-77

- o Interests and potential work/job desires^{18,24}
- o Self-advocacy and self-determination training and promotion^{4,11,22,41}
- o Responsibilities for household chores
- o Responsibilities for classroom tasks
- Incorporating functional work-related tasks into common classroom activities

- o Endurance and strength training
- o Safety education and drills
- o Skill-specific training related to life skills and job skills²⁵
- o Activities of daily living training considering transitional elements
- o Self-care training²⁶
- o Practical work experience opportunities 11,13,14,17,18,19,27
- o Work site visit for environmental adaptations and on-site trouble shooting
- Transportation training (i.e. how to use ride-share apps and practice with independent transportation)
- Collaboration with instructional staff, job coaches, supervisors, etc. to promote independence, consistent standards, high expectations, and feedback
- Fit4Work: Intervention and Exercise Programming³

 Johnson C. Fit4Work: Fitness for Vocational Tasks for Youth with Disabilities: Second Edition.
- National Technical Assistance Center on Transition: Evidence-Based Practices⁴³
 https://transitionta.org/evidencepractices
- o Other:

Providing Further Resources

Collaborative Partners During Post-Secondary Transition

There are many members of the care team who should be collaboratively involved in post-secondary transition planning. All play valuable roles independently and working together as a team. You can use "other" to customize this list or add notes. The following collaborative partners are important to consider in building a post-secondary transition planning team:

- o Primary care physician
- o Specialists
- Nutritionist

- Mental health provider
- o College advisor
- o Career counselor
- Employment advisor
- o Guidance counselor
- Social worker
- Local fitness trainer
- Vocational rehabilitation staff
- Physical therapist
- Occupational therapist
- Speech language pathologist
- Teacher
- o Principal
- o Peers
- o Parents
- Individualized Education Plan teams
- Individualized Transition Plan teams
- o Friends!
- o Other:

Helpful Post-Secondary Transition Resources and Organizations

There are many excellent resources available to help provide post-secondary transition support to people with disabilities for establishing independence in managing employment, healthcare, money, independent living, households, recreation, health and wellness, and relationships. These resources offer online information, resources, and program opportunities. Often national organizations have local chapters that can provide further structured support. Support may include guides, resources, and programs related to work exploration, employment training, skills development, job placement, recreational programs, safety and accessibility tips, mental health services, criminal justice, legal options, special needs financial planning, travel, recreation, employment, post-secondary education, health and wellness, healthcare, volunteering, future planning, technology, assistive technology, disability resources, housing, community living options, empowerment resources, alliance groups, research, planning workbooks, person-centered planning, transition planning, and more. You can use "other" to

customize this list or add notes. Potential recommendations for resources, organizations, and support centers for post-secondary transition include:⁴⁴⁻⁷¹

o Easterseals⁴⁴

https://www.easterseals.com/our-programs/

o The Arc⁴⁵

https://thearc.org/our-initiatives/

o Thrive Center⁴⁶

http://www.thrivectr.org/disability-youth-to-adult-resources

Mission Empower⁴⁷

https://missionempower.org/resources/transition-to-adulthood/

o I'm Determined⁴⁸

http://www.imdetermined.org

o The Youthhood⁴⁹

http://www.youthhood.org/index.asp

o A Life 4 Me⁵⁰

http://www.alife4me.com

o Pacer Center⁵¹

https://www.pacer.org/students/transition-to-life/

o Got Transition⁵²

https://www.gottransition.org/index.cfm

Heath Resource Center at the National Youth Transitions Center⁵³
 https://www.heath.gwu.edu

o Center on Transition Innovations⁵⁴

https://centerontransition.org/index.html

o Transition Services Liaison Project⁵⁵

https://tslp.org

o Health Transition Wisconsin⁵⁶

https://healthtransitionwi.org

DO-IT: Disabilities, Opportunities, Internetworking, and Technology⁵⁷
 https://www.washington.edu/doit/

o Center for Parent Information and Resources⁵⁸

https://www.parentcenterhub.org/resourcelibrary/

o Ability Magazine⁵⁹

https://abilitymagazine.com

- National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities⁶⁰
 www.ncichy.org
- o CP Daily Living⁶¹ http://cpdailyliving.com
- United Cerebral Palsy⁶²
 https://ucp.org/resource-guide/
- American Academy for Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine⁶³ http://www.aacpdm.org
- National Center for College Students with Disabilities⁶⁴
 http://www.nccsdonline.org
- National Center on Secondary Education and Training⁶⁵
 http://ncset.org
- Vocational Rehabilitation Service⁶⁶
 https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/dvrs
- Transcen Career and Workforce Development⁶⁷
 https://transcen.org
- National Center on Workforce Disability/Adult⁶⁸
 www.onestops.info
- National Collaborative on Workforce & Disability for Youth⁶⁹ www.ncwd-youth.info
- Association for Persons in Supported Employment⁷⁰ www.apse.org
- VCU Rehab. Research/Training Center on Work Supports & Job Retention⁷¹
 www.worksupport.com
- o Other:

Helpful Physical Activity Resources and Organizations

Physical therapists can also be helpful in providing resources related to physical activity opportunities including activity centers, recreational opportunities, sports teams, and more. You can use "other" to customize this list or add notes. Potential recommendations for resources, organizations, and opportunities include:⁷²⁻⁷⁷

- o The YMCA⁷² https://www.ymca.net
- National Center on Health, Physical Activity and Disability⁷³ https://www.nchpad.org/
- North Carolina State Parks⁷⁴
 https://www.ncparks.gov
- Disabled Sports USA⁷⁵
 https://www.disabledsportsusa.org/sports/adaptive-sports/
- BridgeIISports⁷⁶
 https://www.bridge2sports.org
- Special Olympics⁷⁷
 https://www.specialolympics.org
- o Other:

Helpful Resources and Organizations Reference Chart

This working reference chart provides a summary of programs and resources provided by various helpful organizations and groups. Use the sections to fill in information related to relevant organizations. The chart can then be presented as a categorical guide for students and families. The chosen resources should be personalized to the individual student.

Organization	Program/Resource Topics	Website
Easterseals ⁴⁴	- work exploration	https://www.easterseals.com/
	- employment training	our-programs/
	- skills development	programme.
	- job placement	
	- recreational programs	
	- safety and accessibility tips	
	- mental health services	

The Arc ⁴⁵	- criminal justice	https://thearc.org/our-
	- employment	initiatives/
	- travel	111111111111111111111111111111111111111
	- education	
	- health	
	- volunteering	
	- future planning	
	- technology	
Thrive Center ⁴⁶	- transition alliance group	http://www.thrivectr.org/disa
	- transition planning	bility-youth-to-adult-
	- empowerment resources	
	- planning work book guides	resources
	- community living options	
	- employment information	
	- legal options	
	- person-centered planning	
	- post-secondary education	
	- recreation	
Mission	- employment	https://missionempower.org/r
Empower ⁴⁷	- disability resources	esources/transition-to-
Zimpo wei	- special needs financial planning	
	- school planning	adulthood/

Places to Find in Your Community

Many other resources should be found locally in your community. All suggestions and opportunities should be driven by student interests and typical family recreational behavior. You can use "other" to customize this list or add notes. The following categories are important to consider when exploring local community resources:

- Parks and recreation spaces (local parks and recreation departments often offer programs specifically for people with disabilities)
- o Lakes and ponds (fishing, boating, kayaking, etc.)
- o Rivers
- Community centers
- Activity centers

- Recreational centers
- o Gyms
- o Pools
- o Tennis Courts
- o Nature trails
- Walking, hiking, biking, or rollerblading paths
- National parks
- o Skate parks
- o Greenways
- o Golf courses
- Campgrounds
- o Specific fitness class studios (Yoga, Tai Kwando, etc.)
- o Adaptive sports leagues
- o Adaptive adventure programs
- Cooking classes
- Social programs
- o Art programs
- o Music programs
- Concert spaces
- Gardening classes
- o Cooking classes
- o Laser tag venues
- Specific hobby-related opportunities
- o Libraries
- Other:

Community Resource Patient/Family Handout Template

This template can be used in collaboration with the student to help find activities of interest and personal transition resources. Together, use the sections to fill in information related to local community resources to explore. The chart can be used to help guide engagement in community activities and programs related to post-secondary transition. The chosen resources should be personalized to the individual student's unique interests, preferences, and common family recreational behavior. Examples for how to use the guide are demonstrated in italics.

Organization/ Program/ Place	Website/ Location	Contact Person	Specifics	Notes
	Phy	vsical Activity an	nd Recreation	
Community Rec Center	Downtown	Elizabeth 919-222-1122	Tai Kwando on Mondays at 2 pm	Free membership, on bus route J
Bass Lake	www.basslake rec.com	Phoebe 919-222-1122	Kayaking, fishing	Closes at sunset

Household Management				
Cooking Class	Bowl Avenue	Shelby 919-222-1122	Tuesdays at 4pm	\$10 per class
Social and Leisure				
Shine Activity Center	Chatt Drive	Scout 919-222-1122	Community socials, Night to Shine Prom	Email listserv for updates
Public Library	Booker Street	Penelope 919-222-1122	Reading hour on Wednesdays at 11am	Free membership, computers

Other				

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