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RESOURCES:



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www.suelarkey.com



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Education Events PTY Ltd

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MAKING PAYMENTS:

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Schools may order books on
approval for 14 days.

School to Work Transitions for Young People with Autism Spectrum Disorder

It is very important we start preparing student for post school options. A great starting point is getting teenagers involved in volunteer work. The school holidays are a great time to volunteer, checkout the volunteer websites as they have many options available. Jeanette Purkis has written a fantastic book *The Wonderful World of Work* and has kindly written a tip sheet for this Newsletter.

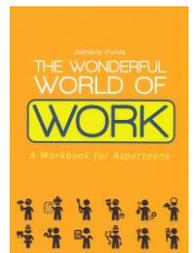
1. Start the conversation around employment with the young person early. Ideally, this should happen when they are 13 to 15 years old. That way, the transition from education to work will be less scary and unpredictable.
2. Ascertain the young person's anxieties around working and address them. Once again, the earlier this happens, the better.
3. Focus on the young person's potential and strengths rather than their problems and deficits.
4. Work on building the young person's sense of self-esteem and self-worth.
5. Education is very important in terms of success in the workplace. Try not to view education as a trajectory from school to university to professional job. Instead, see it as a journey, encourage the young person throughout their education journey, whatever they decide to study.
6. Help the young person find a mentor. A good candidate might be an employed person with ASD that the young person admires and/or enjoys spending time with.
7. Encourage a positive view of employment. Give some examples of employed and influential autistic people such as Temple Grandin or Anita Lesko.
8. Have a 'career day' where the young person can talk to different people about their jobs. People could be drawn from your own friends and relatives.
9. Think about what kinds of jobs your child or student might be good at and enjoy. You can approach businesses and create a job for them based on their strengths rather than having them apply for advertised jobs which may be inappropriate.
10. Talk about workplace communication. Practice using role plays if you like.
11. Do some research about disability employment service providers in your local area. Be proactive and encourage the employment service to engage with your child/student.
12. You can work through *The Wonderful World of Work: A Workbook for Asperiteens* with the young person.

Check out Jeanette's Tip Sheet: **Success in Employment – Tips for Asperiteens** – download free on www.suelarkey.com

Recommended Resource

The Wonderful World of Work By Jeanette Purkis

Full of practical information, engaging activities, fun illustrations and inspiring personal stories, this hands-on workbook demystifies the world of work in order to help teenagers with ASD feel confident in their ability to be successful at their studies and get a job and encourages them to think about careers that might suit their skills and interests.



CODE B119 \$40 (incl P & H)