

Transition To Adulthood

The path to success and independence: It's a family process

Parents spend years supporting their student as they learn to navigate the world, marking the milestones along the way. One of the greatest milestones is their transition to adulthood, when families help their student prepare for independence, post secondary education and employment. Growing into adulthood and planning for the future can be exciting and overwhelming.

Up until this point, parents have been the driving force in their student's education and have learned to advocate for them since they were diagnosed with hearing loss. As the student becomes a young adult, they must be willing and responsible to advocate for themselves. This can be a challenge for both parents and students. Therefore, it is essential that students and their families begin transition planning early and have a plan in place to guide them into adulthood.

Planning for transition is a team process that involves the student, teachers, parents or guardians and other service providers. It is complex and will be individualized to meet the student's needs. Active participation in the transition planning process and encouraging independence through teaching advocacy skills is essential. Parents should not hesitate to openly state concerns or ask questions. Remember that the student is watching and learning by example. It is important to keep them involved in the planning process towards independence. They need to attend any school meetings and be involved in discussions about their future beyond high school.

PREPARE

Transition Tips

Participate in the transition planning process.

Reinforce the student's efforts of independence, assertiveness and problem-solving.

Encourage open and honest communication.

Provide opportunities for the student to disclose their hearing loss and accommodation needs at home and in the community.

Ask questions during school meetings.

Remind the student of the changes in responsibility as they become a young adult.

Express concerns, challenges, and most importantly love and support the student.

"The greatest gift you can give your children are the roots of responsibility and the wings of independence." ~ Dennis Waitley

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