

Transition Times



Helpful Links

What Parents Need to Know
When Disability Impacts
Behavior and Discipline at
School

<https://wapave.org/what-parents-need-to-know-when-disability-impacts-behavior-and-discipline-at-school/>

Legal Resources for Highly
Mobile Military Families

<https://wapave.org/legal-resources-for-highly-mobile-military-families/>

Specialized Recreation Program

Did you know that Thurston/Mason County Developmental Disabilities offers Specialized Recreation? Most participants have an intellectual or developmental disability, but activities are open to persons of *all* abilities. The goal of these events is to integrate program participants into the community and provide opportunities for learning and growth through physical and social recreation. Most events are suitable for people ages 16 and older and currently include various activities like bingo, themed dances, and crafts. Additional activities are being reintroduced in 2023, such as bowling, day trips, swim club, game club, movie nights, karaoke, and more! Individuals with respite funds available may use them to pay for events. Scholarships are available for those that need financial assistance.

For more information, call Specialized Recreation at (360) 867-2679 or go to <https://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ssdd/specializedrecreation.html>.



Korbin's Success Story



This is Korbin. Last school year, Korbin attended Tenino High School's three-year transition program and participated in the County's, School to Work (STW) program. Korbin has hypotonia (lack of muscle tone), a rare form of diabetes, and developmental disabilities, but this does not deter him! During his last year of school, Korbin worked with an employment consultant with the goal of finding a job before he left school services at the age of 21.

While Korbin's Employment Consultant was helping him search for jobs, the Tenino Community Service Center (TCSC) was looking for a candidate for their Workforce Training Program. The program's mission is to offer employment to graduates of Tenino High School's transition program so students can build upon their skills. Korbin accepted TCSC's job offer and started working in September 2022.

"Tenino is a small town with only a few employment opportunities for our young people. We decided to create our Workforce Training Program to give special education students in our community an opportunity to succeed. Korbin is a huge asset for us. He has grown into his job so well that it is a shock to us when he takes a day off."

Jody Stoltz, Executive Director
Tenino Community Service Center

Korbin works five hours per day, three days per week. His daily tasks include loading food into bags and boxes for the food bank clients, loading and unloading delivery vans, and helping the food bank van driver deliver food to clients' homes.

When asked about his job, Korbin said, "I love working because I get to help people. I don't have a favorite task because I enjoy them all." With his first paycheck, he was excited to buy a new PlayStation 5.

Tammy, Korbin's mom, conveyed, "Korbin was scared of getting a job after exiting school, but the School to Work program has given him confidence and now he feels very proud of himself. He is more responsible now, motivated, and enjoys interacting with his co-workers and the community."

Enrolling for Job Foundation & School to Work

Enrollment for Job Foundation and School to Work for next school year is starting February 1, 2023. The goal of both programs is to help students in life skills/transition programs find a job by June before they leave school services at age 21.

For information on these programs and eligibility requirements, click the links below.

- [High School Transition 101](#)
- [Job Foundation Brochure](#)
- [Job Foundation Information Video](#)
- [School to Work Brochure](#)
- [Job Foundation/School to Work Comparison](#)
- [Job Foundation/School to Work Application & Consent to Share Information](#)

Upcoming Events

Informational Bingo Night

February 8
5:30-7:00 p.m.

Come play bingo, win some prizes, and learn about Thurston/Mason County's Specialized Recreation, Job Foundation, and School to Work programs.

Click [here](#) for a flyer with more details and information on how to reserve your spot.

Thurston/Mason County Resource Fair

March 21, 2023
4:30-6:30 p.m.

We are back in person for the first time since the pandemic started! Come and talk to over 30 vendors that offer resources and services in our community.

Click [here](#) for a flyer with more details.

Come Touch His Cheek

© Gary S. Shulman

This child of mine you stare at so,
Please come closer so you will know
Just who my child is and what I see
when those sweet eyes stare back at me
I see no limits to my child's life
Although I know
It will be filled with strife,
I'm hoping that doors will open each day
I'm praying that kindness
will come his way
You look frightened?
You tremble with fear?
Come, come closer
touch him my dear
Touch his cheek so soft
so sweet
Be one of those people
he needs to meet
Someone who will look
and hopefully see
The skill, the talent
The ability
Please come closer
You don't have to speak
Come a little closer
Just touch his cheek
And when you do
you will see
this sweet, sweet child
is no different
than you or me

Gary S. Shulman. "Come Touch His Cheek."
Family Friend Poems, Aug 2013. <https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/about-children-with-disabilities-come-touch-his-cheek>

Center for Independence—Helping People Live Independent Lives



The Lakewood-based Center for Independence (CFI) helps people with disabilities develop skills so they can fully engage in our community.

One of the programs CFI offers is Youth Transition, which is for youth ages 14-24 who have a disability, including mental health conditions. In this program, CFI creates individualized goals to help youth achieve their desires of becoming more independent. The types of goals that are worked on vary, but some examples include preparing for college or employment, learning how to get around the community independently, and becoming a strong self-advocate. Youth also learn about other resources in the community and CFI assists with connecting individuals to appropriate services.

Youth Transition also facilitates monthly peer support groups where participants come together for an evening full of fun and lessons on a variety of topics such as communication, problem solving, advocacy, and more.

If you are interested in learning more about CFI's Youth Transition program, go to www.cfi-wa.org or contact the Youth Transition Coordinator, Anna Ihrig, at (253) 582-1253 ext. 109 or annai@cfisouth.org.

Did You Know?

On June 9, 2022, Washington State Legislature House Bill 2008 became law. This bill states (page 4 line 30), “Beginning July 1, 2025, the administration may not use intelligence quotient scores as a determinant of developmental disability. “



What does this mean? It means that starting July 1, 2025, DDA will no longer use IQ scores as a factor in determining an individual's eligibility for DDA services. If you, or someone you know, has previously applied for DDA and been denied due to an IQ score that was too high, reapply after that date to see if you are now eligible.

To see the full bill, click [here](#).



Thurston/Mason County Developmental Disabilities

412 Lilly Rd NE

Olympia, WA 98506

HST.Coord@co.thurston.wa.us

(360) 867-2518

