

Transition Times



Helpful Links

Guardianship [video](#) by Angela Carlson Whitley



Job Foundation [video](#)



[Specialized Recreation](#)



Now Enrolling for Job Foundation and School to Work!

Do you want a job before you leave school services at age 21?
Do you meet the criteria below?

- An active client of Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA)
- You will be 19-21 years old next school year, and
- You are in a life skills or transition program.

If you answered yes to both questions above, you are most likely eligible for [Job Foundation](#) or [School to Work](#). Offered by Thurston/Mason County in partnership with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) and DDA, both of these high school transition programs are free to eligible participants.



You will work with a supported employment provider to identify your interests, skills, abilities, and needed supports. The ultimate goal is to be placed in a job during your last year of transition services.

Enrollment for the 2023-2024 school year is now open! To enroll, email hst.coord@co.thurston.wa.us and request an application or an [online application](#) is now available.

Eligible students, not currently enrolled in Job Foundation or School to Work, who **enroll AND select an employment provider by May 31** will receive a certificate toward a free **Specialized Recreation activity**: bingo, themed dance, movie and pizza, bowling, craft, or day trip.

Caleb's Success Story



Meet Caleb. He has fought hard to overcome many obstacles in his young life, but he has developed into a compassionate and caring young man who always has a smile on his face. Diagnosed with autism at a young age, Caleb has worked through many challenges and leads an active life playing Special Olympics basketball, loves listening to rock and roll music, and enjoys being outdoors.

During the summers of 2021 and 2022, Caleb participated in the Hope Garden Project Older Youth Farm job program. Offered to high school students, it teaches a structured approach to horticulture, interpersonal and self-reflection skills, and practical cooking methods.

In his last year of high school transition, Caleb participated in the School to Work program. His supported employment provider worked with him to identify his abilities, interests, skills, and long-term and short-term employment goals. His provider also assisted him in developing a résumé and taught him interview skills through mock interviews.

All of the hard work paid off! In October 2022 Caleb got a job at the YMCA in Shelton. He works at the front desk checking customers in, takes new customers on tours, cleans equipment, and answers the phone. Caleb loves going to work and helping people.

Caleb's mom is proud of his accomplishments and expressed, "Caleb's job opportunity at the YMCA has given him confidence and hope in who he is and who he can become. Caleb comes home with a smile on his face because he is learning so much, gets to work with people, and truly feels valued as an employee. I know it means a lot to Caleb to be able to work with people and provide service with kindness. I am so thankful Caleb was provided this job opportunity and I am so excited to watch Caleb grow and work towards his future and goals."

When asked what Caleb likes most about his job, he expressed, "I like to work at the front desk, because I like to work around people, and I can greet them and help check them in so they can enjoy the time at the YMCA. I like to learn new things in my job."

We are **Occupational & Life Skills Bellevue College (OLSBC)**, an associate degree program for students with learning disabilities. Our uniquely supportive program helps students identify a career path, gain workplace-ready competencies, and develop better interpersonal skills.

Meet Ally

Ally started the OLSBC program to help her pursue her career goal as a paraeducator. She moved from Grays Harbor to the Bellevue College campus to obtain her degree with OLSBC.

Throughout her college journey, Ally has developed self-awareness and gained skills that helped her land her internship working with children. "When I first came to OLSBC, I was unable to adapt to situations," she says, "but since I've been in the program, it's easier for me to be flexible." Adaptability is one of the many skills OLSBC students gain while completing their degree.



Ally working on a science assignment



Ally working with kids at her internship

Ally is currently completing her internship and will graduate in June 2023.

"OLSBC is a college program that doesn't see disabilities as a problem they need to fix. You will figure out your true inner self and understand your disability a little more."

Learn more about OLSBC

Join us at an upcoming [Information Session](#), open to prospective students, families, educators, counselors and other service providers.

About Occupational & Life Skills Bellevue College

- 15 students per class average.
- Students complete a 200+-hour internship in their chosen career path.
- 85% of our graduates are employed.
- Online and on-campus program options.
- Financial Aid is available based on eligibility.



South Sound Parent to Parent

2108 Caton Way SW
Olympia, WA 98502



Program Activities

- Helping Parent—peer mentorship, emotional support, social connections
- Mom to Mom and Dad to Dad Support Groups
- Information and referral to community resources
- Social/recreational events
- Early Support for Infant & Toddlers Program (ESIT)
- Transition/IEP support
- Home Equipment Loan Program (HELP)
- Parent education
- Sibshops (two groups ages 7-12 and teen sibs 13-18)
- Spanish Language Line

“Parents of children with a disability or illness can offer each other something that other types of support cannot --- shared experiences. They are the only ones who truly understand what it feels like to have a child born with or develop a disability or illness. “

www.ssp2p.org

Contact Information

www.ssp2p.org

360-352-1126 (main line & Spanish Language Line)

Sylvia Davenport, Helping Parent/Transition Coordinator; sdavenport@ssp2p.org

Angie Godinez, Bilingual-Spanish Helping Parent Coordinator; agodinez@ssp2p.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SSP2P/>



Seeds For Growth is a local non-profit that offers community-based activities and programs for individuals who are differently abled

age 14+. They are passionate about inclusion and acceptance of all people.

Financial assistance is offered to participants who cannot afford the hourly rate. With pre-authorization, DDA clients can use respite funds to cover the costs of activities.

For other Seeds of Growth activities, see their [calendar](#).

Thurston/Mason County
Developmental Disabilities



Thurston/Mason County
2023 Resource Guide



Thurston County
Specialized Recreation



Thurston/Mason County Developmental Disabilities

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