

VOCATIONAL CLUSTERS

Beginning at the age of 14, and each year after, students will be asked to identify a post-school outcome in the area of career and employment that will be documented in their IEP. Although the outcome identified will be reviewed at each IEP meeting and can be changed, it will be a primary focus for the development of the student's transition plan. As students are becoming young adults, and preparing for careers, they may not have a clear idea about the types of careers that would be of most interest to them. And, students can only choose between those career options that they are aware of. In many cases a student may identify a career outcome that does not seem to match their skills and abilities. In further discussion with the student you may find that he or she does not really understand the responsibilities of the job or the education and training required. Frequently students will identify a desired career because of its high visibility. Professional athletes, rock stars, auto mechanics, and teachers are popular choices.

As part of the career development process, it is important for students to have opportunities to research careers and try out different work environments. In many cases, there will be an appropriate job within a career category that a student has expressed an interest in. Researching and discussing different career categories, or clusters, and finding out about the skills and experience required will help students and their families to make the best choices.

Career clusters are identified in the Occupational Outlook Handbook published by the Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. The Occupational Outlook Handbook provides information about labor trends as well as requirements for specific careers and projected wages. The Handbook is available in libraries and major bookstores. Major clusters of career categories include:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Administrative and Managerial Occupations.2. Engineers, Surveyors and Architects.3. Natural Scientists, Mathematicians and Computers.4. Social Scientists, Social Workers, Religious Workers and Lawyers.5. Teachers, Librarians and Counselors.6. Health Diagnosing and Treating Practitioners.7. Nurses, Pharmacists, Dieticians, Therapists and Physician Assistants.8. Health Technologists and Technicians9. Communication, Visual and Performing Arts10. Technologists and Technicians, except Health. | <ol style="list-style-type: none">11. Marketing and Sales Occupations.12. Administrative Support Occupations, including Clerical.13. Service occupations.14. Agricultural, Forestry, Fishing and Related Occupations.15. Mechanics, Installers and Repairers.16. Construction and Extractive Occupations.17. Production Occupations.18. Transportation and Materials Moving Occupations.19. Helpers, Handlers, Equipment Cleaners and Laborers |
|--|--|

Career Clusters Activity

The purpose of this activity is to brainstorm and list a wide variety of potential jobs in each career cluster for your son, daughter or students.

Using the career clusters worksheet, list specific jobs under each career cluster that may be appropriate for your son, daughter or students. Then, think about places in your community that a student could go for a job shadow or to get work experience in that career area.

Be creative—look for parts of jobs and related occupations that would be possible for a person with a disability to perform with the appropriate supports.

For example, your son or daughter is interested in cars and would like to be an auto mechanic, but due to learning disabilities and problems with fine motor control, this may not be possible. You may consider parts of that occupation such as changing oil, battery charging, tire repair, or mechanic's helper, or look at other related jobs such as auto detailing, car wash, or working in a parts department.

If your student likes animals and would like to be a veterinarian, consider jobs in a pet store, animal shelter or horse stable.

Students who express an interest in the performing arts may find paid or volunteer opportunities making costumes or scenery, helping with lighting and set changes, or handing out programs.

This can be a fun and energizing activity. Try this with a group of people who know your son or daughter well, or with a group of students. Sometimes we get more creative ideas when we work together.



Career Clusters Worksheet

Specific Jobs

Tryout Sites

1. Administrative and Managerial Occupations.

2. Engineers, Surveyors and Architects.

3. Natural Scientists, Mathematicians and Computers.

4. Social Scientists, Social Workers, Religious Workers and Lawyers

5. Teachers, Librarians and Counselors.

6. Health Diagnosing and Treating Practitioners.

7. Nurses, Pharmacists, Dieticians, Therapists and Physician Assistants.



8. Health Technologists and Technicians.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

9. Communication, Visual and Performing Arts.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

10. Technologists and Technicians, except Health.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

11. Marketing and Sales Occupations.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

12. Administrative Support Occupations, including Clerical.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

13. Service occupations.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

14. Agricultural, Forestry, Fishing and Related Occupations.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____



15. Mechanics, Installers and Repairers.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

16. Construction and Extractive Occupations.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

17. Production Occupations.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

18. Transportation and Materials Moving Occupations.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

19. Helpers, Handlers, Equipment Cleaners and Laborers

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

