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Building Skills for Future Success

Daniel arrived at the Milwaukee Job Corps Center on September 13, 2011. He is a 24-year-old, high school graduate from Kenosha, WI who is deaf. Before his arrival, the center was made aware of the accommodations necessary for him to participate in the Job Corps program. These accommodations include a sign language interpreter, residential/safety accommodations, closed captioning, and preferential seating.

When Daniel arrived on center, he was placed in a dormitory room equipped with safety lighting and assigned a roommate who knows American Sign Language. His room is equipped with a Sorenson video phone so he can stay in contact with friends and family off center.

Before Daniel arrived, he indicated he was interested in the welding trade. However, as Daniel progressed through the program he decided on the materials handling and distribution trade. In addition to his trade, Daniel was placed in English Language Learner classes so he could work on his sentence structure and vocabulary. He was very successful in completing his trade and earning his forklift certification. Daniel also made significant gains in both math and reading.



Daniel and his interpreter review the safety training before he starts in the welding trade.

Daniel not only successfully completed his trade and impressed employers while doing his work-based learning; he also has been placed in welding as a second trade. With each milestone Daniel achieves, the more motivated and engaged he becomes as a student. When asked about his future beyond Job Corps, Daniel replied that “I am still learning and unsure what the future will bring.” He does know that he will obtain better employment opportunities because of his training at Job Corps. Daniel has made some friends and knows that the Milwaukee JCC staff and students support him and treat him as an individual.

The center is grateful for the support from the interpreters, and their willingness to fully engage in educating and advising staff on appropriate scheduling and realistic ways to provide Daniel with reasonable accommodations. The guidance from the interpreters has allowed Daniel to become more independent and learn how to manage his disability and self advocate which will make him more employable. The center is continuing in its efforts to request funds for the interpreters and develop community partnerships for added support.

See Disability Resources, page 5, for additional information on resources for individuals who are deaf or hearing impaired.

Thanks to Dee Franzen, Disability Coordinator, Milwaukee JCC for gathering this information to share. If you have additional questions about how the center was able to meet the needs of a student who is deaf, contact James Roberts, Center Director, Milwaukee JCC at: roberts.james@jobcorps.org.

Bookshare: A Growing Partnership

Several Job Corps centers and their students with disabilities have realized the many benefits of entering into a partnership with Bookshare. Best of all, it is FREE to all Job Corps centers!



Bookshare is the world's largest online accessible library of copyrighted content for people with print disabilities. Bookshare is funded by the the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, to provide free access for all U.S. students with a qualified print disability. The Bookshare library has over 150,000 books and serves more than 200,000 members.

In the coming months, Bookshare and the Job Corps Regional Disability Coordinators will be working on a dedicated Job Corps library. However, do not wait for that. Bookshare already has several books used by Job Corps centers including several TABE, health occupation, security and retail trade textbooks. Bookshare members can also download many current fiction and non-fiction books, periodicals, and newspapers.

How It Works

Free Membership - Entering into a partnership is easy. From the Bookshare website, <http://www.Bookshare.org>, select *Organizational Options* under the *Membership* tab. Next, click on *Organizational Memberships* where you will be able to sign up your center for a Bookshare membership. Bookshare will accept the center's Disability Coordinator as the signatory on the application. Once the application process is completed, students with print disabilities can be entered into the system and books for them can be downloaded.

Reader Technology - Bookshare offers many no- and low-cost reader options, including reader software for student computers, iPads, iPhones, iTouch, and mobile phones. One option, *Go Read*, is a fully accessible e-book reader. It is optimized for visually impaired readers, but usable by anyone including those with learning disabilities. *Go Read* allows a reader to download and listen to books on android smartphones and tablets. In addition, a product called *NextUp*, converts text to MP3 format for use on portable devices.

Digitizing Center Books - Another wonderful benefit of the program is that the helpful staff at Bookshare will digitize academic and trade textbooks as requested by a Job Corps center. If the center has a particular textbook that is not in the library, just send a request along with the book to Bookshare and the book will be digitized, proofread and placed into the Bookshare library within a month or two. Once a book has been digitized and placed in the Bookshare library, it is then available to all Bookshare members and of course, all centers. It only takes one request and one book sent to Bookshare and it is in the library forever. Books used in hard trades, soft trades and academics can be digitized, but check first; it may already be there.

Independence - Whether a student wants to copy and paste text on a computer while listening to their book or to simply sit back, relax in their dormitory and listen to the book on their MP3 player, this is the Cadillac version of assistive technology. This technology can open up a completely new world of independence for students that they can use after they leave the Job Corps program.

Partnership Tool - Remember to document the center's efforts to establish a Bookshare partnership on the disability resource partnership tool available at the Job Corps Community Disability website or through your Regional Disability Coordinator. Not only is Bookshare a great resource for students, but this partnership also assists in satisfying the disability partnership requirements [PRH 6:6.11, R7(f)].

For questions or additional information, contact Bookshare staff at info@benetech.org or (650)-644-3400. Your Regional Disability Coordinator is also available to assist.

Assistive Technology for Struggling Writers

Scenario: I have a student with a learning disability who experiences difficulty with writing. Are there assistive technologies that will relieve the student's writing anxieties and make the writing process easier for him?

Students that frequently struggle with writing may:

- Become easily distracted, frustrated, or fidgety in when assigned writing tasks
- Experience difficulty with staying on task
- Have sloppy handwriting (they may hold their pen/pencil in an awkward manner)
- Experience difficulty with organizing thoughts or are unable to think of the correct words when writing

There are many types of assistive technologies that are available to assist struggling writers ranging from no-tech to low-tech to mid-tech to high-tech assistive technologies.

No-Tech/Low-Tech/Mid-Tech – Handwriting Aids



Pencil Grips



Easy Grasp Pencil



Steady Write Pen

Benefits: Pencil grips allow individuals to easily grasp and hold their writing instrument. The steady write pen is particularly useful for individuals who have limited hand use. The base stabilizes the hand to smooth out shaky or poor handwriting.

Benefits: The use of raised line paper can be helpful as it allows the user to feel the lines as they are writing and can assist individuals that experience difficulty with sloppy handwriting or with staying in-between the lines. Spell checkers and talking dictionaries can assist an individual to detect spelling errors and/or provide them with the opportunity to both “hear” and “see” the words.



Spell Checker/Talking Dictionary



Raised Line Paper

High-Tech – Software Programs

Benefits:

- **Ginger** is a FREE program that proofreads and identifies both spelling and grammar mistakes.
- **WordQ**™ is a software tool used along with standard writing software. It suggests words for individuals to use and provides spoken feedback to help users find mistakes.
- **Inspiration** is a visual mapping that can be used to help struggling writing develop and organize their ideas allowing them to better understand and retain information when forming ideas, words, and concepts.
- **DraftBuilder** is a software program designed to break down the writing process and assist individuals with brainstorming their ideas, note taking and writing a cohesive first draft.



AT for Struggling Writers (*con't.*)

Suggestions on where to purchase:

Pencil Grips: http://www.amazon.com/dp/B001SN8HPI?tag=hyprod-20&hvadid=15466961619&hvpos=1o3&hvexid=&hvnetw=g&hvrand=17139153061739989215&hvpone=&hvptwo=&hvqmt=&ref=asc_df_B001SN8HPI

Easy Grasp Pencils: <http://www.therapro.com/Easy-Grasp-Pencils-P40273.aspx>

Steady Write Pen: <http://www.therapro.com/Steady-Write-Pen-P204811.aspx>

Raised Line Paper:

http://www.independentliving.com/prodinfo.asp?number=653396W&utm_source=froogle&utm_medium=comparison-shopping&utm_campaign=Froogle&gclid=CM2WILSG_rECFQJp4AodqnAAwg

Talking Dictionary/Spell Checker: http://www.amazon.com/Franklin-Dictionary-Thesaurus-Correction-MWD-1500/dp/B001WLVHKL/ref=sr_1_4?s=electronics&ie=UTF8&qid=1345754163&sr=1-4&keywords=talking+dictionary

Ginger (free download): <http://www.gingersoftware.com/>

Inspiration: <http://www.inspiration.com/Inspiration>

WordQ: http://www.enablemart.com/Catalog/WordQ-Win?utm_medium=cpc&utm_source=bing&utm_campaign=Learning

DraftBuilder: http://www.donjohnston.com/products/draft_builder/index.html

Promising Practices

Milwaukee: Staff has received more than the minimum required training on disability-related topics. Center staff has attended many of the disability-related webinars offered through Job Corps Data Center.

San Jose: Career transition services staff provides students with a Career Planning and Transition Handbook, which contains information on requesting reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities.

Centennial: Staff receives many opportunities for disability-related training, including online training provided by the CMHC and presentations by speakers from various local disability agencies.

Wolf Creek: The special education teacher/disability coordinator provides a resource folder with information on working with individual with disabilities to each academic classroom.



Disability Resources

PRH Policy Change Notice 11-20

According to the changes in PRH Chapter 3: Appendix 301 Oral Administration of the TABE:

- If centers use a test reader, that person must be trained to provide oral administration of standardized content.
- Staff members who serve as readers must successfully complete the required training in SIMON annually.

The Oral Administration of the TABE training is available in SIMON.

Disability Coordinator Tools

There is a sample DC responsibilities SOP now available in the DC Orientation/Disability Coordinator section of the Job Corps Disability website. Please remember to customize the sample SOP to match your center's current practice.

Remember October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month

The theme this year is "A Strong Workplace is an Inclusive Workplace: What can YOU do?"

Free posters are available in both English and Spanish at <http://promotions.usa.gov/odep.html>.

Resources for Individuals who are Hearing Impaired or Deaf

<http://www.rid.org/index.cfm>? - Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf.

http://www.rid.org/UserFiles/File/pdfs/Standard_Practice_Papers/CDISPP.pdf - Offers information about the use of a certified interpreter.

<https://askjan.org/media/deaf.htm> - Offers information about hearing loss and related accommodations.

<http://www.sorensonvrs.com/> - Offers assistive communication devices for those who are deaf or hard of hearing, including the videophone.

<http://www.scomm.com/ubiduo> - Offers information about the UbiDuo including information on how it works, who uses it, and where you can use it.

Guidance for Meeting the Needs of Applicant/Students Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing - This guidance offers Job Corps center staff information, resources, and tools to meet the needs of students who are hearing impaired or deaf. To access the guidance go to the Job Corps Disability website, Other Job Corps Disability Related Web Resources section and click the Guidance for Meeting the Needs of Applicant/Students Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing link.

Upcoming Job Corps Disability Webinars

- Oral Administration of the TABE: Reader Training
- Creating Inclusive Environments: Involving Residential and Behavioral Staff in the Disability Program
- Disability Website Overview

E-mail your comments or suggestions to
Carol Abnathy, National Health and Wellness Manager,
abnathy.carol@dol.gov.

Regional Disability Coordinators

Boston region

Lisa Kosh
Regional Disability Coordinator
301-608-3290 ext. 602
lisa.kosh@humanitas.com

Philadelphia and Atlanta regions

Nikki Jackson
Regional Disability Coordinator
301-608-3290 ext. 603
nikki.jackson@humanitas.com

Chicago and San Francisco regions

Kimberly Jones
Regional Disability Coordinator
301-608-3290 ext. 607
kim.jones@humanitas.com

Dallas region

Laura Kuhn
Regional Disability Coordinator
602-403-9998
laura.kuhn@humanitas.com