



Experiences and Questions about Employment

The questions in Charting the LifeCourse are written to reflect a “first person” perspective across the lifespan to represent the viewpoint of the person with a disability and the on-going transformation to an adult who is self-determined, autonomous and independent.

- In infancy and early childhood stages, the person with a disability asks questions about what the family or others around them are doing to support them or helping them learn to do.
- During transition age and then in adulthood, the questions are about what they themselves want, the things they should be focusing on, and the life experiences they should be having.

Prenatal and Infancy

- Will you need to quit your job to stay home and take care of me? How will we deal with the loss of income?
- Are you worried about how a diagnosis might affect my future?
- Do you have a vision or plan in mind for me when I get older that will support my growth and development now?

Early Childhood

- Are you keeping a vision in mind for my future as I learn and grow?
- Do you view me as being able to do what other children do, even if I need extra help to do so?
- Do I have chores or responsibilities at home like cleaning my room or picking up my toys?

School Age

- Do you ask me what I want to be when I grow up?
- Am I learning about lots of different jobs from my family, teachers and others?
- Do I have responsibilities at home such as daily chores?

Transition

- Does my transition plan include work or volunteer experience, and practicing how to look for, get, and keep a job?

CHARTING the life course



- Does my transition plan balance work experience, social skills and academics according to my needs, desires, and abilities?
- Are you helping me understand that doing my best at school and being responsible will help me get a job I like someday?
- Am I learning about the different roles people have in life and how they are interrelated?
- Are you helping me learn how to apply for a job and gain experience in jobs that interest me?
- Are you helping me explore assistive technology that would help with learning employment and adult living skills?
- Can Vocational Rehabilitation help me prepare for college or a career?

Adulthood

- What will I do during the day now that I am an adult?
- What are the things I really like or want to do?
- Can I find a job or volunteer opportunity that matches my passion or interests?
- Would I prefer to have a full time job, part time job, volunteer?
- Where can I learn or improve my employment skills?
- Can I turn an interest of mine into a way to earn income/start my own business?
- Who can help me to get a job or start my own business?
- Do I know how to get a job, keep a job or change jobs and build a long-term career?
- How might my life change if I had more money to do things I like?
- Does my income from my employment or other sources exceed benefit limits?
- Has anyone helped me think about what has or hasn't worked well for me in previous jobs and do I have a plan to address those things?
- Have I thought about how to address barriers to getting the job I want?
- Would assistive technology help me with college or a career?

Aging

- Can I afford to retire?
- What will I do to keep busy if I retire?
- Do I have funds or support to replace my income when I retire?