

**Identifying and Building Vocational Themes – Kristen**

I’d like to introduce you to Kristen. She lives at home with her mom and dad and currently is looking for help to find a job. She graduated from high school one year ago and has never had a job. She has been unsuccessful in finding a job on her own; she has filled out applications at every fast food place and retail store that is hiring, and she has never gotten a call back or an interview. She has a developmental disability and is currently receiving counseling and medication for clinical depression as well as treatment for substance abuse.

She has interests in a variety of what could be considered artistic endeavors. We could say that some of her Emerging Patterns (not yet Vocational Themes!) are:

Interior Decorating

Gardening, particularly flowers

Sewing and designing clothes

Before assuming that these are Kristen’s three vocational themes and should be “job choices” you want to arrange some activities where Kristen can participate and show what skills she has or can be developed in these areas. The purpose of this is to refine the themes based on the information you gather. You want to verify that you’re on track (that these are indeed themes), or what you learn might lead you to broadening the theme (example – “Interior Decorating” might be broadened to “Art” or Design; Gardening might be might be broadened to “Agriculture”.

What are some Activities/Tasks that Kristin could do at home that would give context to her interests?

What small or odd jobs could Kristen do for you that you’d be willing to pay her for?

What new activities (in the community) could Kristen be involved with that will help explore her interests further? What could she actively DO???

What businesses or people do you know related to her Emerging Themes where Kristen could go visit, tour and speak with (with help, of course!) to learn about their careers and how they got into their line of work?

•Work in pairs or small groups

•Brainstorm activities where you might help Kristen with **your** connections

•Identify nine creative activities that you could help Kristen do to explore her interests, in **your** community.

•Make sure you identify activities that Kristen can ***actively***participate in that show skills.

•Make sure to identify some activities “outside of the usual”

Who are some people that **you** know that Kristen can meet, do an Informational Interview with, visit at work, tour their place of business – any or all of these.

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| **Activities/Tasks you could observe Kristen doing at home related to her interests** |
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| **People Kristen could meet and interview from your connections** | |
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| **Activities/Tasks in community places Kristen could do related to her interests**  **where she can show what she can do, or where she can learn new skills**  **(She has DO something not just watch!) Use YOUR community, and YOUR connections** |
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