

**Identifying and Building Vocational Themes – Sarah**

I’d like to introduce you to Sarah. She is a young woman with developmental disabilities, 23 years old and is currently living in her own apartment with supports from a residential provider agency. She has very little contact with her family. From your initial meeting with Sarah, and interviews with her residential support staff, her Support Coordinator, and her school transition staff you have learned:

The school transition staff helped Sarah with several job experiences while in school: In the public library she alphabetized returned books for shelving; worked for a realty company where she sorted mail and assembled disclosure paper work packets for properties. Sarah uses a smart phone and a tablet. She is learning to pay her bills on line.

Sarah told you she loves animals; the school transition staff helped her with several job experiences while in school including walking dogs at the Humane Society and working with horses at a stable.

Sarah is an avid Utah Utes basketball fan. She used to play various sports with Special Olympics and would like to get back to play on some sort of team again, maybe basketball.

**Emerging patterns (not yet Themes) are: Office/Clerical Support. Animals. Sports.**

What are some Activities/Tasks/Chores that Sarah could do at home that would give context to his interests that you could observe?

What new activities (in the community) could Sarah be involved with that will help explore his interests? What could he actively DO???

What businesses do you know of related to his Emerging Themes where Sarah 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 Sarah with **your** connections

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

•Make sure you identify activities that Sarah 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 Sarah 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 Sarah doing at home related to his interests** |
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| **People Sarah could meet and interview from your connections**  |
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| **Activities/tasks in community places Sarah could do related to his interests** **where he can show what he can do, or where he can learn new skills** **(He has to DO something not just watch!) Use YOUR community, and YOUR connections** |
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