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## **On-the-Job Success with Transition Services and Job Coaching**

Sarah, a recent graduate from a Bucks County high school, is differently-enabled. She remained in high school until the age of 21 so she could continue enrollment in special education services offered by her school district. Upon graduation, Sarah and her family were faced with the challenge of her transition from the relatively protected high school environment to the more challenging world of work and higher education.

Sarah and her family researched post-high school options, and together they decided that entering the workforce would be her best opportunity. Sarah's family contacted the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation who referred her to Family Service's Adolescent and Adult Competitive Employment and Socialization (AACES) program. AACES helps youth and adults with disabilities lead more independent lives. Transition Services, one element of the AACES program, helps young adults ages 17-21 who are in need of assistance to transition successfully into competitive employment or higher education.

Sarah and her AACES Job Coach had an introductory meeting. Together they assessed her strengths and needs and developed an individualized plan to meet her career goals. They later prepared for interviews, discussed how to conduct a job search and spoke with managers about how great an employee she would be. With her Job Coach's support and assistance, Sarah applied for a position at a local convenience store, was interviewed and was offered the job.

Sarah was delighted to begin her new position stocking the store's shelves and keeping the space tidy. Her strong desire for cleanliness keeps the place spotless during her shifts. Sarah loves that she gets paid to keep her worksite clean and safe, and she works hard to keep it that way. Her family couldn't be more proud.

With her Job Coach by her side at work, Sarah is learning to stay on task and to recognize the nuances of engaging with customers, supervisors and peers. As Sarah becomes increasingly independent in her role, her Job Coaching will begin to slowly phase out.

Sarah's parents report that her confidence has skyrocketed with her recent work experience. Sarah is proud of her success on the job, and that pride has carried over to other areas of her life. She is enjoying having money to save and spend. Recently she and a few friends went out to celebrate her birthday, and Sarah insisted on footing the bill!

Thanks to support from Family Service's AACES program and Transition Services, Sarah is able to contribute to her community and feels valued in her new role.

If you are or someone you know has a disability and is seeking competitive employment or a place in higher education, Family Service can provide the support needed to meet these goals. For more information, visit [www.fsabc.org/jobs](http://www.fsabc.org/jobs) or contact Family Service's AACES Coordinator at [aaces@fsabc.org](mailto:aaces@fsabc.org) or 215.757.3300.

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*Family Service Association of Bucks County is a nonprofit social service organization with locations throughout Bucks County, Pennsylvania. For more than 60 years, Family Service has been improving the lives of children and their families, doing whatever it takes to help them overcome obstacles and reach their full potential. Visit [www.fsabc.org](http://www.fsabc.org) to donate, volunteer and learn more about how Family Service helped more than 24,000 children, teens and adults last year.*