

Transition Planning Questions for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder

(The following sample questions were compiled by a mother from Ohio whose son has autism.)

1. What can your child do?
2. What does your child like?
3. What does your child need to explore?
4. What does your child need to learn to reach his/her goals?
5. What about college (four-year university, two-year community college), vocational education, or adult education?
6. How about getting a job? (competitive or supported employment)
7. Where can your child go to find employment and training services?
8. What transportation will your child use?
9. Where will your child live?
10. How will your child make ends meet?
11. Where will your child get health insurance?

(These sample questions were compiled by parents from North Carolina with children with autism.)

Parents should consider these factors:

Will your child....

- live on his own or need assistance?
- work independently or need support?
- attend a vocational/technical school?
- go to college?

What independent living skills does your child have:

- Can he manage his personal hygiene?
- Can he choose appropriate clothes and dress himself?
- Can he buy and/or prepare food?
- Can he manage his medication?
- Can he keep his living space clean?
- Can he manage his finances?
- Can he drive or access public transportation?

What organizational skills does he have?

- Can he set a clock? Arrive at appointed time?
- Can he use a day planner or calendar?
- Can he make a list of things that need to be done?

What social skills does he have?

- Can/will he initiate recreational activities?
- Can he use the telephone/e-mail?
- Can he make/keep friends?

What self-advocacy skills does your child have?

- Can he ask for help if he needs it?
- Does he know when he needs help?
- Does he know his strengths and needs?
- Can he communicate with health care providers?