

## ACTION KIT

# EMPLOYMENT FIRST



## PARENTS & FAMILIES

**Set the expectation** early that your youth will work in the community

**Listen** to your youth when they share about their dreams, desires & future

**Talk to & Encourage** your youth often about working to create excitement

**Assign** chores & responsibilities at home so your youth learns skills and more about what works for them

**Remember** you are not alone & **Find** supports in the community.

**Ask** for resources & tools. **Utilize** those supports to help you

**Share** with teachers & DDD Support Coordinators about the expectation of work in your youth's future

**Recognize** your fear then be brave and allow your youth to find their voice, independence and contribution

**Practice** social skills, speaking up, healthy friendships, and work skills with your youth

**Know** your parental rights & procedural safeguards

**Attend** all of your student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) meetings at least once per year

**Ensure** meaningful employment goals are in your youth's IEP (age 14) including community work experiences

**Advocate** with state agencies for competitive, integrated employment not community based employment

**Hold** state agencies and community services accountable

**Engage** in experiences meaningful to your student which are necessary for their personal growth

For more information, visit  
<https://www.azapse.org>

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