

10 TIPS TO PROMOTE EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT

- 1 EXPRESS** positive attitudes about work, including your own. Show your commitment and belief in the importance of employment and education.
- 2 ENGAGE** in conversations about work and school. You may have insight and knowledge about a person's skills and interests that can apply to school and work. Reinforce these strengths and listen to the person's hopes and dreams.
- 3 ENCOURAGE** individuals and **support** them in their beliefs that school or work is possible and will be positive. Be available to listen to the person's concerns and fears while reminding them of their strengths, accomplishments, and successes.
- 4 EDUCATE** individuals in an informal way with conversation. You can provide information about the supports that will be available to help someone in deciding the types of jobs they desire.
- 5 BE OPEN** about what **you need** to support individuals in moving toward employment. Let your supervisor know your needs: support, knowledge, training, skills, etc. In other words, what can help you to support individuals' career goals?
- 6 INVOLVE** yourself in discussions with colleagues and your supervisor. These discussions can include the person's strengths, the information you gained from conversations with the individual, and any concerns you have.
- 7 PROBLEM-SOLVE.** If there are concerns or doubts about a person working or going to school, ask for time during a team meeting to brainstorm how as a team can make employment a possibility.
- 8 MAKE REFERRALS** to Supported Employment and Supported Education often and early. For a list of providers in your county, refer to the NJ DMHAS directory (pp. 111 and 113). tiny.cc/NJDMHAS
- 9 DISPLAY** information about job and education opportunities, benefits planning, success stories, financial aid, etc.
- 10 SUPPORT, INSPIRE, and BELIEVE!**

