

Best Buddies Jobs Introduction

High School Program Facilitation Notes



Facilitation Notes

Objective: For students to learn about the Best Buddies Jobs program. Students should be able to further support their buddy and other individuals with disabilities in identifying what they want to do once they graduate from high school.

Time: 30 minutes

Materials: Presentation, facilitation notes, Jeopardy PowerPoint

Overview: 15 minutes

Best Buddies Jobs:

What is the Best Buddies Jobs Program?

- a. The Best Buddies Jobs program represents one of the three Best Buddies pillars, Integrated Employment. We work to secure jobs for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities
- b. BBJ matches skilled and qualified individuals with IDD with dedicated employers
- c. Play a BBJ video from Best Buddies University. This is a great way for student leaders to see the Jobs program and understand the importance - <https://youtu.be/lqxZImwqIKs>

Why is the Best Buddies Jobs Program Important?

- d. 81% of individuals with IDD are currently unemployed
- e. Many individuals with IDD “graduate to the couch” after high school
- f. We currently have BBJ programs in 21 areas across the country and are working to expand into many other areas

Best Buddies Jobs History

- g. BBJ program began at Best Buddies in 1994.
- h. Currently TJX has employed the most participants by employing 21 Best Buddies Jobs participants, but Holland and Knight was the first official employer of the Best Buddies Jobs program.
- i. BBJ has had many success stories! – Barbie, a participant in the Best Buddies Jobs program has worked for her employer for over 20 years. She is the longest employed participant in the Best Buddies Jobs program and was the first official BBJ placement

How Does the Program Work?

- j. Best Buddies accepts referrals from Vocational Rehabilitation. Vocational Rehabilitation supports the Best Buddies program through partial funding, vocational assessments, transportation vouchers, and clothing needed for employment
- k. All Best Buddies participants must fall into the criteria of having been diagnosed with an intellectual and developmental disability AND must have the desire to work.
- l. Best Buddies then will work to match participants with business seeking, enthusiastic and dedicated employees
- m. Best Buddies staff will work to develop partnerships with employers and assist with the hiring process
- n. Best Buddies will then provide ongoing support to the individual once hired.
 - i. Best Buddies supports the participant for their lifecycle of their employment.



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What Makes the Program Unique?

- o. Best Buddies provides supported employment for participants
- p. Best Buddies staff (Employment Consultants) support the participants for the lifetime of their employment
- q. Participants are placed in competitive jobs and are fully integrated with their employees
- r. Best Buddies Jobs participants, on average, work 22 hours a week and earn \$10.22 per hour
- s. Current employers include: MasterCard, Netflix, Grand Ole Opry, Audi, Starbucks, NBA, and many more

How Can I Support My Buddy?

- t. Start the conversation!
 - i. Ask your buddy or other members in the chapter what their plan is once they graduate high school
 - ii. Are they considering a job? College? A trade school?
- u. If your buddy is interested in a job after high school
 - i. Talk with their parents about the BBJ programs
 - ii. Ask if they are connected with Vocational Rehabilitation
 - iii. Ask about their interests. What kind of job would they like after high school?
- v. Don't have a buddy? How can you support?
 - i. Start with YOUR parents! Maybe they would be interested in hiring someone with an intellectual and developmental disability or their company would!

Activity: 15minutes

Best Buddies Jobs Jeopardy

Let the group know they will be participating in a Jeopardy game to review some of the information they just discussed. Divide the group into teams of 3-5 students. Once the group has been divided, draw numbers to see which team will go first!

The first team will select a category and a number. The facilitator will select the number on the PowerPoint and ask the question. The team will have 30 seconds to answer. If the question is answered correctly, the team will log those points. If the team does not answer correctly, another team can choose to answer by a quick raising of the hands.

Once the first question has been answered, the system will continue until all of the questions have been asked and answered. The team with the highest score at the end, wins!

