

Summer Work Program

The Aspire Center for Learning (CFL) offers a summer school option called Summer Work. Students who are eligible for summer school can intern at a variety of job locations for the morning session of the school day. The special education teacher and paraprofessionals provide job training and coaching while integrating Individual Education Plan (IEP) goals and objectives into the work environment.

The afternoon session of the school day is spent directly focusing on IEP goals and objectives, related services, individual and group projects related to academics, and career exploration and employment.

Last year, Aspire summer work students participated in internships at Millennium Hotel, Anderson's Frozen Custard, Chili's Grill & Bar, Delta Sonic, and Children's Discovery Corner child care center. Students have opportunities to practice skills such as following multi-step directions, communication with peers and job coach, job etiquette, hand/eye coordination, gross motor skills, and sorting and counting.

A family luncheon and awards ceremony is held towards the end of the session. The students have a chance to share their experiences and success stories with classmates and families.

The Summer Work program can be the first job internship for some students. For others, it may be a continuation of experiences they've had throughout the school year.

According to Cherie Lesinski, education supervisor, both groups of students benefit greatly and enthusiastically support one another. "The new students are able to overcome the nervousness that we all face on our first day of work," she said. "They have successful work experiences because of the support given by the teaching staff. The students with previous interning experience are able to keep the school year momentum flying. This prevents substantial regression, which of course is what the summer school session is all about!"

Contact Cherie Lesinski at 505-5700, ext. 53044 or cherie.lesinski@aspirewny.org.



Summer Work students have the opportunity to explore several work settings.

Accessible Technology With "Point and Click" of Mouse

Since the implementation of the Americans With Disabilities Act in 1990, more and more of daily life has become accessible to people with disabilities. Computers are no exception. Both Microsoft and Apple have gone beyond the requirements of the ADA to offer built-in accessibility options to people with disabilities, including some impressive technology useful to people with vision, hearing and dexterity difficulties. There are also new resources for people with language, speech and learning impairments built into the newest versions of the Windows and Macintosh operating systems.



The full range of accessibility features in Windows (including XP and Vista) can be found at www.microsoft.com/enable. Microsoft's accessibility options include screen magnifiers, keyboard adjustments and mouse modifications. You can use StickyKeys to press one key at a time for keyboard combinations. There are also ToggleKeys that allow you to hear tones when pressing keys on the keyboard. To improve screen visibility, there are a variety of colors and high contrast color combinations. Narrator is a text to speech program built into the Windows operating system that helps people with vision impairments read text - as full words and sentences, or as one letter at

See "Point and Click" on next page.

To learn more about Aspire's transition services, please contact Central Intake, 716.838.0047.

Aspire of Western New York

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Phone: 716.505.5000

Email: info@aspirewny.org

Web: www.aspirewny.org

Aspire's Mission:

Aspire's mission is to help children and adults with developmental disabilities, cerebral palsy, and conditions with similar personal and family effects live their lives to the fullest in keeping with their informed choices.



Turning Disabilities
Into Capabilities

Continued from Cover: "Point and Click"

a time. Increasing the size of the mouse pointer can also help people with low vision. Turning on MouseKeys allows you to turn the numeric key pad into your mouse.

These options are available by clicking on Start, Settings, Control Panel, Accessibility Options. The Accessibility Wizard is available by clicking on Start, All Programs, Accessories.

Information about the options that are built into the Macintosh operating system (OS X) can be found at www.apple.com/accessibility. OS X includes a spoken interface, built-in magnification, talking alerts and display adjustments similar to those found in the Microsoft products. OS X also has keyboard, mouse and screen adjustments that can accommodate people with vision, hearing and dexterity disability. The accessibilities options from Apple are known as "Universal Access." Find them by accessing the System Preferences in the Apple menu. A new feature included in Universal Access is closed captioning for Quick Time videos.

The Microsoft and Apple Web sites also contain helpful information about third-party programs and assistive technology devices such as alternative keyboards and mice, touch screens and typing aides.

For more information about the technology services provided by Aspire, call Technology Today at 836-7232 (Buffalo) or 743-8372 (Tonawanda). ●

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GETTING READY FOR SUMMER

May 20, 6-8pm
EPIC & Parent Network Offices
1000 Main Street, Buffalo

Explore your feelings and your child's feelings as the summer approaches. Plan for you child's time and activities during the summer months and develop good back-to-school practices. Call 332-4170 to register.



Members of Aspire's CO-OP wish you a happy summer. Lower left to right: Sharlene Williams, Sarah Doueck, Jacqui Blake and Michael Montileone. Upper left to right: Florence Yew, CO-OP associate; Karen Saskowski, CO-OP supervisor; Elaine Duszynski, CO-OP associate; Katie Mruk; and Juan Attea, CO-OP associate.

SAVE THE DATE

👉 April 15 – Last day to register with VESID for fall semester college supports

👉 April 27, 28 & 29 – Empire APSE Supported Employment Training Institute at Lake Placid

👉 May 22 – Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day. Buffalo Convention Center

👉 September 5 - Aspiring Artists Art & Wine Celebration fundraiser
www.aspirewny.org/events

Calling All Comments, Suggestions and Newsletter Ideas!

If you have any comments, suggestions or a subject you would like to see in an upcoming newsletter, please contact Paula Kerber at 716.505.6792, or email paula.kerber@aspirewny.org. Want an electronic copy of *Transition Times*? Share your e-mail address with us and we'll add you to our database!

Aspire
OF WNY

Turning Disabilities
Into Capabilities