

Targeting Transition Program Information

Program Basics.

The *Targeting Transition* program was initially designed in 1996 to meet the life and employability skills needs of middle and high school vocational students. It was adapted for use by special education transition students in 2001. The program is based on a combination of philosophies that includes the Boy's Town model, Glasser's Control Theory, Gregorc's Learning Styles model, and Wessels' Performance-Based Learning model. The program focuses on three important principles:

1. Make clients responsible for their own futures.
2. Focus on clarity, responsibility, and accountability.
3. Provide learning situations that are real-world based.

Curriculum Research-base.

The curriculum for the program is comprehensive and based on a variety of expert sources, including:

- Boy's Town social and character skills.
- CASAS (Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System).
- Conference Board of Canada.
- National Chamber of Commerce
- NWREL (Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory).
- SCANS skills (Secretary's Committee on Achieving Needed Skills).
- Workkeys (a nationwide workforce development system).
- World Health Organization.
- United States Department of Education.
- Utah State Office of Education.

In 2000, a team of special education personal from south central Minnesota was formed to analyze the program and make recommendations for adapting the curriculum and procedures to align with the Transition requirements of IDEA.

With the adaptations complete, 58 teachers from Region Nine of southern Minnesota pilot-tested the program in their schools. At this time, more than 1,200 teachers in Minnesota and Kansas are using the program.

In 2005, a team of autism specialists from the Minnesota South Central region combined current autism research with the existing *Rubrics for Transition I* (higher-functioning skills) & *II* (lower-functioning skills) manuals to design the *Rubrics for Transition III: for Autism Spectrum Students*. Research sources for this manual include such sources as:

- Howlin, P., Goode, S., Hutton, J., and Rutter, M. *Adult Outcome for Children with Autism*. Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry, 2004
- Smith Myles, B. and Simpson, R. *Asperger Syndrome: A Guide for Educators and Parents*. PRO-ED, Inc., 1998
- Wehman, P. *Life Beyond the Classroom: Transition Strategies for Young People with Disabilities*. Brookes, 1992.