

# How to Embed Employment and Transition Skills in a Functional Academic Setting

Alexis Boeh

Candace Boeh

Maryville High School

Life Skills Teachers

Shantel Farnan

Northwest Missouri State University

Assistant Professor/Coordinator of Special Education Programs

72% of individuals  
with disabilities are  
unemployed (Butterworth, 2011).

# Benefits

- Authentic work experience in a familiar, highly supported environment (scaffolded/differentiated jobs based on IEP goals)
- Task perseverance
- The beginnings of moving to supported and eventually competitive employment- paid for jobs
- Practical, real world skills (money, stations/assembly line)
- Interpersonal skills to prepare them for the world of work
- Communication
- Work place environment (dress/uniform)
- Collaboration with marketing class
  
- Merrill, A. (2016)
- National Technical Assistance Center on Transition's (NTACT) Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) Toolkit (2017)
- Transition Coalition (2017)

# Student Led Businesses

- Spoofy Beans



<http://www.mhsspoofyspot.maryville.k12.mo.us/>

- Spoofy Spot



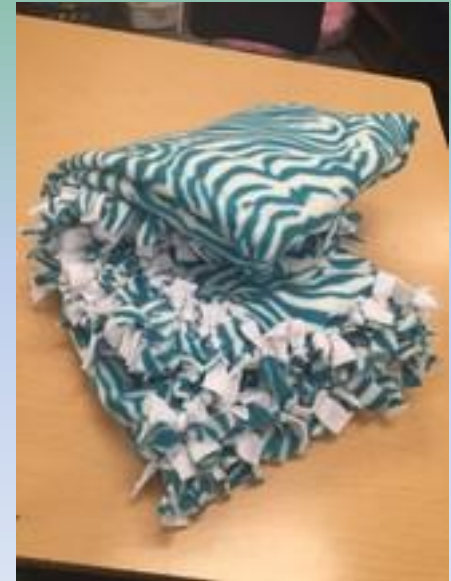
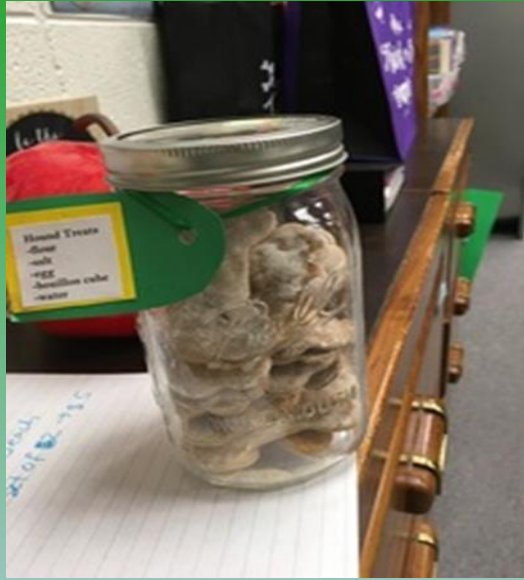
# Spoofy Beans at MHS!!!



# Spoofy Spot Product Ideas



# Spoofy Spot Product Ideas



# Life Skills Trips

- Once a month!
- Why we started?
  - Aligned with CSIP goals and IEP goals
  - Authentic opportunities to address IEP goals through collaborative partnerships
  - Exposure to life skills outside of the rural area
  - Exposure to possible transition opportunities
- What skills learned from trips?
  - Planning skills- time management, schedule, logistics
  - Modeling and communicating necessary skills (expected behaviors) to others; peer mentors
- How are they funded?
  - Donations
  - Businesses
  - Fundraising
  - Collaborative partnerships with Northwest Missouri State Univ



# Life Skills Trips

- Once a month!
- Where do we go?
  - Northwest campus- life skills lessons/social skills
  - Arcade (mini entrepreneurs interactive session)
  - Kauffman (Royals) Stadium- scientific process
  - Arrowhead (Chiefs) Stadium- health and wellness
  - Pony Express Museum- history lesson
  - Sea Life Aquarium- science and research
- Who goes?
  - K-12 students in Life Skills
  - Peer Mentors

# Peer Mentors

- Lifesavers!
- Serve as "coaches" in a variety of life skill classes.
- Peer mentors get elective credit and A plus hours.
- Have witnessed peer mentors grow in: empathy, patience, and confidence.

# FACT CLUB

- Future Active Citizens of Tomorrow!
- Lawyer Legacy
- Activities such as:  
Highway Cleanup,  
Holiday Parties, 5K,  
Spaghetti Dinner, Chili  
Supper, Yearly Trip  
(Chicago, St. Louis).
- Meets every other  
week during the lunch  
hour.
- Main goal: develop  
**SOCIAL SKILLS!**



# Entrepreneurship

- Functional reading with economic concepts (profit, loss, supply, demand, benefit, cost, etc).  
Applied to Spoozy Beans & Spot.
- Time Sheets
- Inventory
- Calculating Pay
- Money & Social Skills
- Customer Service
- Pricing items with students
- Budget awareness
- STATION WORK

# Science Explorations

- Functional skills
  - Reading directions
  - Reading tables and graphs
  - Measuring
  - Problem solving
  - Working as a team
- Relate to field trip (Royals, Chiefs)

# Movement & Music

- Integration of PE, Music, and Art
- Access to General Education
- Peer Mentorship
- Hidden curriculum
- Stations
- Engagement
- Peer Lesson Plans

# Areas of Transition

- Daily Living
- Recreation and Leisure
- Community Participation
- Job Training
- Self-Advocacy

(O'Leary, 2010)

# Daily Living

Sample Activities:

- Class Cook Book
- Guest of Honor
- Ordering out
- Shopping at Grocery Store

Discuss skills addressed!



# Recreation and Leisure

- Special Olympics
- Free time- challenges (structured vs. unstructured)
- Friendly letters

# Community Participation

- Nursing Home
- Ministry Center
  - "He has the skills to do these types of jobs. I will stop in and visit with him."
- Northwest
  - Special Education
  - Adaptive P.E.
  - Therapeutic Recreation

# Job Training

- Job Shadow Day- Pre Employment Transition Services (PETS)
- School Jobs
- On the job "coaching" during class businesses.
- Job Boxes

# Self-Advocacy

- Student Led IEP's.

# Education/Schooling

- Get mostly A's and B's
- Continue class in Auto Tech
- Most important of all...Graduate!
- Get a degree at a technical college
- Might consider joining the armed forces.

**AIM HIGH**

**Destroy them in the air;  
deploy your ordnance on the ground**

# Questions??

- Thank you so much!!!
- Our contact information:
- [boeh@maryviller2.com](mailto:boeh@maryviller2.com)
- [cboeh@maryviller2.com](mailto:cboeh@maryviller2.com)
- [sfarnan@nwmissouri.edu](mailto:sfarnan@nwmissouri.edu)