

August 2015 - Transition Services - General

Announcer:

MERIL has been providing smiles for more than 20 years. Listen as we talk to De Linda Kelly, Director of Communication & Transition Services for MERIL, through an interpreter's voice, as she shares with us information on Transition services provided by MERIL.

De Linda, what is MERIL concentrating on with Transition Services?

De Linda via an interpreter:

Transitions that we're focusing on are with the youth with disabilities. Those in high school, middle school, even elementary and the purpose of this program is to assist students with disabilities to begin thinking about and planning for their future and what they're going to do after they graduate from high school.

Whether it's going to be going to college, vocational training or going straight to employment and with students with disabilities it can be very overwhelming, not knowing what all the options are and where to start. So that's where we are coming in to assist them.

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If you or someone you know can use the services of MERIL call 1-800 MERIL the number 4 and the letter U

Midland Empire Resources for Independent Living – MERIL - Working toward a Barrier Free Northwest Missouri for more than 20 years!

August 2015 - Transition Services - Tools & Team

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De Linda, how does MERIL help students through Transition Services?

De Linda via an interpreter:

We can start what's called a job carving. And that's a tool that we can use to assist the students in really narrowing down specifically what jobs they might want.

The unique thing about our Transition Services is that the student is able to develop their own team. It might be their favorite teacher from high school, or perhaps it's their church pastor, even a neighbor & then those team members would be called their Future Planning Team.

A key thing really is to start early.

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