

Montessori Education for Autism

MEIA

Out of Education - Into Employment
Workshop 3:
Will We, Won't We – Can We Change?
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Learn 2012- Inclusive Education and Vocational Options

28-29 January 2012

Taj Connemara, No 2 Binny Road, Anna Salai, Chennai, 600 -002

Are your 2012 pupils with special needs ready for the workplace?

- In the UK youth unemployment has risen to its highest level since 1992, increasing by more than 50,000 in the space of three months
- In the UK we are asking, “Are your pupils prepared for the challenges of job interviews and communicating in a work environment?”
- Here we are talking about *all* pupils , not necessarily pupils with special educational needs

India: Towards A Position Statement

- 2012 – will it be the right time for healthy transition from education to employment for students with special educational needs in Chennai?
- In Tamil Nadu?
- In India?

Words for Work

- **Words for Work** is an innovative initiative helping disengaged Year 9 pupils to improve their communication skills through our innovative Words for Work initiative, which takes business volunteers into schools. Their new (click website below) means you can now run the project in your school.
- http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/words_for_work

Words for Work

- **Words for Work (WfW)** is the National Literacy Trust's innovative speaking and listening project. It was piloted for 2 years in 13 partner secondary schools across England. WFW brings together **secondary school pupils** and **volunteers from the business community** to explore the use of **speaking and listening skills** in the workplace through a series of **challenging and engaging workshops**.

Montessori – hands on learning

- Hands-on Montessori methods of learning help children attain concentration, independence, dexterity, conceptualisation and above all high self-esteem.
- Please remember, it's learning not teaching – it's a different approach and maybe a total step change for India!

Group Sessions

- A Prototype for Transition from Education to Employment
- Pooling thoughts, ideas, best practice
- What works and why?
- What doesn't work and why?
- Our final thoughts

Delegates Pool their Ideas ...(1)

- Our students with learning difficulties and autism needs specific training – both academic and non-academic;
- Placements - Delhi delegates suggest contacting IL&FS Education - the social infrastructure initiative of IL&FS India. Established in 1997 to promote Education, Employability, and Empowerment - are experts in the fields of education, skill development, industrial cluster development, health initiatives, e-governance and financial inclusion www.ilfsets.com

Delegates Pool their Ideas ...(2)

- **Suitable placements** might be in manufacturing; ITC; craft work; data entry operators, IT, construction, retail, fashion
- **Training/placements** need to be on the job training; sustainable; at least three months; work-life sensitive; learning by doing
- **Literacy** (English) – Functional Usage not grammar;
- **NCVT**

What Employers Need – You Tell Us

- Social Skills
- Preparedness
- Functional English, and
- Communication skills

What's Currently Available – You tell Us

- On the job training in catering, yoga, secretarial, nursing, pickle-making;
- Animation/graphic design;
- Tailoring/printing;
- Candle-making/incense sticks;
- Bamboo making

Job Sustainability Needs:

- Parental acceptance of child's interests;
- Transition Planning (NiMH)
- Working in Clusters;
- Loans from Banks;
- Viable Propositions;

Delegates Prototype for Transition Out of Education and Into Employment

- Assessment in place – essential to include parents;
- Standardisation of assessments;
- Explore the corporates- jobs, suitability;
- Sensitise the corporates;
- Forum (corporate);
- Collective effort – parent advocacy
- Awareness of Disability Law
- Database of Jobs/Entrepreneurs

Namaste, Chennai!

I hope to see you again soon!

Wendy Fidler

www.eight29.com

Wildwood Montessori

www.wildwoodmontessori.com

Montessori Education for Autism (MEfA)

www.montessorieducationforautism.com