Life Skills and Vocational Skills Training is designed to help young adults and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) express interest in potential careers while learning necessary life skills that will enhance their ability to live and work more independently. The Carrie Brazer Center for Autism works to model best-practices in the area of vocational and life skills development with community integrated programs for individuals ages 13 and older that include typical mentoring and staff support.

Students undergo a comprehensive vocational assessment to identify skills and general vocational interests. Individual vocational goals are developed from this assessment, and blended with the student’s academic, social, and behavioral goals in an integrated multi-disciplinary approach.

In collaboration with several community organizations such as Marshals department stores, The Carrie Brazer Center for Autism will develop and promote best practice job training and social skills. Long term goals are designed to ensure job development and placement of each enrolled student, with a custom job plan and job coach to meet individual employment needs. Upon placement of a job, each student works one-to-one with an Individual Supported Employment (ISE) job coach, who provides on-the-job training and support.1 Employment services include, but are not limited to skills training in resume building, filling out applications, interviewing, personal hygiene and appropriate dress for work and non-work settings, and conducting oneself in a professional manner. In addition, job coaches provide continuous support for each student.

A primary component of the vocational program involves taking students on community activities to gain experience and to increase their socialization skills. Marshall’s stores and other community partners are participating with the Carrie Brazer Center in the program by offering the students an opportunity to work with employees and learn simple retail tasks such as checking in new stock, hanging clothes, sorting shoes and unpacking merchandise. Money management skills will be practiced weekly out in the community, at the laundry mat, and on various community-based field trips and while utilizing public transportation. Students will also learn to manage a household, become involved in the community, maintain proper hygiene, and prepare simple meals.

"The Attainment Curriculum" is just one of the models that will be used as a guide to teach vocational skills to improve job knowledge skills and daily living skills. Task boxes will be created for each student, also called “Structured Teaching (TEACCH)” which is a methodology of teaching proven best for students with ASDs who depend on routine to succeed. Each task is broken down into small steps, so nearly every student can succeed. All basic work activities use recognizable materials to help the student feel comfortable. Each task includes all work material, bins and boxes and instructions in words, pictures or symbols. Daily living skills: self-care, housing, dining out, and cooking, vocational skills and money management play an integral part of our weekly curriculum.

PLEASE CALL THE CENTER AT (305) 234-0490 OR (305) 271-8790 FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT “VOCATIONAL SKILLS TRAINING FOR ADULTS.”

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1THE INDIVIDUAL JOB COACH PROGRAM IS AVAILABLE FOR AN ADDITIONAL FEE.