

History

In 1996, while working as the Director of the Emergency Department at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, Erin Riehle was frustrated with finding employees for entry-level jobs that involved restocking supplies. While working to identify a solution to eliminating the high turnover rates, Cincinnati Children's had adopted a major diversity initiative. Erin wondered if people with disabilities could fill the entry level jobs she had. Not knowing anyone with a disability she turned to local disability organizations and asked if her idea was possible. Together with these organizations, the idea of filling a handful of jobs in Cincinnati Children's Emergency Department evolved into a comprehensive program model - Project SEARCH. Project SEARCH has grown from one original program site at Cincinnati Children's to over 600 programs across 45 states and eight countries.



***“Tell me
and I forget;
teach me
and I may
remember;
involve me
and I learn.”***

- Benjamin Franklin

What is Project SEARCH

Project SEARCH is a unique, business focused, one year school to work program that takes place entirely in the workplace. The selected students will work in three internships over the course of the year in combination with classroom instruction, goal setting, career exploration, and hands on training through worksite rotations. Each student works with a team that includes their family, an instructor, a department mentor, vocational rehabilitation counselor and Employment Specialist to create their employment goal and to support the student during their transition from school to work.



Worksite Rotations

Each student participates in three internships supported by an onsite Employment Specialist and supervised by a Embassy Suites manager. A special education teacher provides daily classroom instruction at the beginning and end of each day.

Project SEARCH internships at Embassy Suites are unpaid, similar to other internship programs, but are individually created to focus on each student's interests and work potential. Sites include:

- ◆ Food Services
- ◆ Maintenance
- ◆ Laundry
- ◆ House Keeping
- ◆ Guest Services



Classroom Curriculum

Throughout the school year, students participate in a functional academic curriculum that stresses employability and independent living skills. Major classroom focus areas include:

- ◆ Working responsibly
- ◆ Communicating effectively
- ◆ Problem Solving
- ◆ Critical thinking
- ◆ Career planning
- ◆ Applying technology
- ◆ Developing self-advocacy skills



Benefits to the Students

- ◆ Participate in a variety of internships within the host business
- ◆ Acquire competitive, transferable and marketable job skills
- ◆ Gain increased independence, confidence, and self esteem
- ◆ Obtain work based individualized coaching, instruction and feedback
- ◆ Develop linkages to Vocational Rehabilitation and other adult service agencies

Admission Criteria

- ◆ Have an Individualized Education Plan
- ◆ Are in their last year of high school eligibility or ready to graduate upon completion of the Project SEARCH program year
- ◆ Strong desire to achieve a job in the community



Project | SEARCH®



For more information, contact:

Your child's case manager or
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OVERVIEW of Project SEARCH

A one year school to work transition program for students with disabilities housed entirely at Embassy Suites. Total workplace immersion facilitates a seamless combination of classroom instruction, career exploration, on the job training and job placement support. The goal for each student is competitive employment in their home community, transferring the skills and workplace practices that they have acquired and demonstrated at Project SEARCH.