

Soft Skills for Youth Job Success

By: Raquel Castaneda



Acquiring the work skills employers seek results in a higher rate of successful employment. Youth develop these skills through the influence of their families, peers, and the proper training. The most successful way to transmit these skills are through family and regular activities. We should encourage family members to be partners in the effort to build work skills. Families can really set the stage for a lifetime of employment success and community participation.

The work skills that they'll need while looking for and maintaining jobs are, good communication, interpersonal, decision making, and lifelong learning. Good communication skills can come from a variety of places, here are some things families can help develop these skills:

- Using a smart phone to video examples of communication in different settings.
- Role play at home for practice, as parents or guardians, it is important to have conversations daily with them not just to build the relationship but also to help develop these skills.
- Model yourself in the way you speak. Modeling and teaching the appropriate volume, wording, and listening is key to having good communication skills.

Interpersonal skills are also very important. A good question to ask is, is the youth ready to take direction from others as well as work cooperatively? At home one can help develop this skill by:

- Encouraging volunteerism, a great way to do so is to have them join a club on their school campus.
- Have conversations about experiences with discrimination is important as well. They need to know what to look out for and learn speak up about when a situation occurs.

-continued on next page



FHF of Jefferson
201 Evans Road
Building One, Suite 100
Harahan, LA 70123
504.888.9111
504.888.0246 (fax)
www.fhfjefferson.org



Like us on Facebook:
[Facebook.com/
Fhfjefferson](https://www.facebook.com/Fhfjefferson)



Follow us on twitter:
[Twitter.com/
FHFofJefferson](https://www.twitter.com/FHFofJefferson)

Decision making and lifelong skills go hand in hand. Throughout their life they will need to know how to make smart decisions. Every decision they make can be very important and have consequences. At home,:

- Give them responsibilities in order to practice independence.
- Find some opportunities for them to visit familiar work places as well.
- Demonstrate personal responsibilities, initiatives, self-management and perseverance is also very helpful.

Helping our youth disabilities develop these skills is very important in order for them to have successful employment and independence. Everything done at home can be very helpful to for them, I encourage parents and family members to help their child practice these skills daily.

More information can be found at:

<http://www.raisecenter.org/best-practice-teaching-the-soft-skills/>



FHF of Jefferson
201 Evans Road
Building One, Suite 100
Harahan, LA 70123
504.888.9111
504.888.0246 (fax)
www.fhfjefferson.org



Like us on Facebook:
[Facebook.com/
Fhfjefferson](https://www.facebook.com/Fhfjefferson)



Follow us on twitter:
[Twitter.com/
FHFofJefferson](https://twitter.com/FHFofJefferson)

Changing Lives. Every Day.