



**High quality,
meaningful work
experience for
learners with SEND**

Why is work experience important?

- Lack of experience is the number one reason that employers turn young job applicants away.
- There are two main barriers to young people achieving their potential: lack of confidence and lack of ambition.
- Young people with 4 or more work experience-type activities under their belt are 5 times less likely to be NEET.

Quotes from UKCES Not just making the tea ...



The context:

- Since September 2013 work experience has formed an integral part of 16-19 study programmes. Schools & colleges are expected to offer **high quality** and **meaningful** work experience as part of a study programme to give students a valuable experience of the work environment and develop their employability skills.

Activity

- Find someone you don't know and discuss what makes **high quality** and **meaningful** work experience?
- Be prepared to feedback to the group.

Checklist

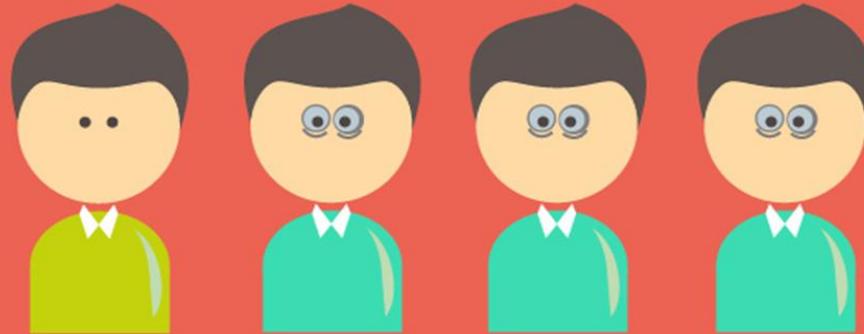
- Senior management buy in
- Named responsible person whom is known to other staff
- Job coaching (systematic instruction)
- Relevant to learner's core aim relating to their skills and transition plans and is ambitious
- Independent information & guidance
- Feedback to learner & employer which leads to improvement
- Recognising and recording progress and achievement (RARPA)
- Safe environment



Activity

- Get into groups of 3. Tell each other about an aspect of your work experience provision you are particularly proud of.
- Be prepared to share something you have heard which has impressed you and which you might consider taking into your practice.

However ...



Ofsted has identified that **75%** of schools and colleges are failing to provide adequate work experience programmes.

What did Ofsted find?

- Too few students are progressing to a higher level
- Too little external work-related activity at all levels
- Poor careers guidance for students on Study Programmes
- The availability and take-up of traineeships is too low
- Supported internships are successful but too few are available

Activity

- Move around so you are in a different group of three.
- What are the main challenges in your work experience provision?
- Write these on post its and stick them on the board.

Activity

- Sort the post its into groups
- Each person put stickers on the three areas they find most challenging (red, yellow and green)

Group discussion

- How have you overcome some of these challenges?



What next?

- Might some of the areas we have discussed be where you want to focus improvement activity?
- Is this something you might work on with others?
- If so, why not apply to join the cluster programme?