Transition is a point in time filled with change, growth, excitement, and sometimes fear and confusion. Transition is defined as the high school years, age 14 to 21. Transition means that you are moving from childhood to young adulthood, and from school to adult life. There are many things to think about and do to prepare for this change.

This 4-pager is designed to help you think about the common experiences, concerns, and questions for each life domain during this stage. Life domains are the different, but connected, aspects of life, like where we live, who we spend time with, and what we do every day. On the back, you will find questions to help you think about the supports you and/or your family may need during this life stage.

Individuals and families may focus on their current situation and life stage but may also find it helpful to look ahead to think about life experiences that will help move them toward an inclusive, productive life in the future. To see questions for other life stages, refer to the Life Stage Series of 4-Pagers and the Charting the LifeCourse: Experiences & Questions booklet at lifecoursetools.com

This publication is based on the Charting the LifeCourse Framework, which was created to help individuals and families of all abilities and all ages:
- develop a vision for a good life,
- think about what they need to know and do,
- identify how to find or develop supports, and
- take steps to live the lives they want to live.
Daily Life & Employment

What a person does as part of everyday life—school, employment, volunteering, communication, routines, life skills

- Who is helping me create a transition plan that is truly individualized and prepares me for life after school ends?
- How does my transition plan include work or volunteer experience, as well as practicing how to look for, get, and keep a job?
- What kind of job do I think I would like to try (what do I like to do or want to learn more about)?
- What supports will I need for either work or other daytime activities, and who will provide those supports?

Community Living

Where and how someone lives—housing and living options, community access, transportation, home adaptations and modifications

- Where do I think I might want to live in the future (after school ends/when I am an adult)?
- How am I learning about different living options for when I am an adult?
- What technology or home modifications would help me function better or be more independent in my home?
- What supports will I need to either continue living in my family home or move into my own place after graduation?
- How will I get around in the community as an adult (drive, public transit, family, cab, car service, etc)?

Safety & Security

Staying safe and secure—emergencies, well-being, guardianship options, legal rights and issues

- What kind of job do I think I would like to try (what do I like to do or want to learn more about)?
- What supports will I need for either work or other daytime activities, and who will provide those supports?

- What skills and abilities can I learn and practice now to prepare me to “be my own person” so I will not need a guardian to keep me safe when I turn 18?
- What are some supported decision making practices that will keep me safe without restricting my basic rights?
- Which life areas concern my parents and loved ones most in terms of my safety?
- What are my parents and others doing to help me be able to stay at home or be in the community alone or without additional support?
- What am I doing to know what to do in case of an emergency or disaster?
Healthy Living

- What steps should I be taking to begin to take control of my own health care, including finding adult healthcare providers?
- How am I learning about the importance of healthy eating and regular exercise?
- Who is helping me understand the changes in my body and my reproductive health?
- What regular physical activities such as working out at the gym, using a treadmill or elliptical or doing aerobics, could replace some of my formal therapies?
- How am I learning to talk about my disability or healthcare needs with others?

Social & Spirituality

- What kinds of extracurricular activities at school or in the community (clubs, social outlets) could I participate in to help build friendships?
- How am I being supported or encouraged to start dating?
- Who is helping me learn about safe sex, intimacy and boundaries?
- What social media could I use safely and responsibly (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, etc.) to connect with and maintain contact with friends?
- What am I doing for fun that other people my age do?
- What opportunities do I have to be involved with a youth or young adult group in a faith community?

Citizenship & Advocacy

- How am I being supported to share my life vision (goals, hopes, dream) at educational and other support meetings?
- What steps are my parents and others taking to shift control of my life to me?
- How are family, teachers and others supporting me to make my own choices and decisions?
- How does my transition plan help me and others around me to focus more on what I CAN do rather than limitations of my disability?
- Who is helping me learn about policy issues and what I need to know to register and vote in elections?
We all use a variety of sources to help us get through our daily lives. We rely on our own assets and capabilities. Most of us have people in our lives who do things for us (and vice versa). We tap into technology as well as businesses, organizations and resources in the community. Even though you might need support or access paid services, remember to consider your personal strengths and other supports that are available.

- Am I learning about the supports and benefits I receive or could receive; how to manage my money, services and supports; and lead my various planning meetings (IEP, IFSP, health, etc)?
- Should I/our family apply for benefits (Social Security, Medicaid, state DD services)? What are the pros and cons of each and how might it affect my future ability to earn income?
- What kinds of community (non-eligibility based) supports might help me now and as an adult (for example, public transportation)?
- Will I graduate/leave school at age 18 or continue until I am 21, and will I receive a high school diploma or a certificate of completion?

For many of us, family is a central part our lives. We are connected to our families throughout the life course, even though the roles of our family members may change as we age. Our parents and family often have a key role in helping and guiding us as we grow into adults. What does your family need to help you on your journey to the good life? Here are some things to think about and discuss with your family:

- What supports does our family need in order to be able to continue working and maintain our lifestyle?
- How do you see your role as the parent/family member of an adult?
- How are we shifting control of my life to me as I become an adult?
- What are our hopes and dreams for our family’s future?
- What future planning have we completed, such as a will, living trust, durable power of attorney for healthcare, and/or a special needs trust?