



OTTAWA-CARLETON
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Storefront School

Education through Community Support

History

The Storefront School was established in November 1987 and was located in the St. Laurent Shopping Centre. The school moved in 1998 to the ING building beside the shopping centre, where it continues to operate. Morguard Investment Limited has been graciously supplying the facilities for the past 25 years.

Purpose

Storefront School is designed to serve 19- to 21-year-old adults with intellectual disabilities who have had prior successful independent co-op placements. Storefront students come from a variety of programs within the city of Ottawa. This two-year transition program focuses on increasing independence and employability skills.

Aims

The focus of this program is to improve and acquire:

- employability skills
- independence skills
- social and communication skills
- self-advocacy skills
- transitioning students to Post 21 programs

Admission Criteria

- identification through the IPRC process as an exceptional student with mild intellectual disability or a developmental disability
- students must be 19 years of age
- currently enrolled in a special education program
- written recommendation of the sending school/program
- completed Transition Skills Checklist and Work Skills Profile
- students currently participating in a Co-op program

- minimum of two prior successful independent Co-op placements (students must be working a minimum of 2 hours, 3 days per week at each job placement)
- independent on the OC Transpo bus system
- structured interview
- maximum of 12 students enrolled

Program Format

Students work in the community five mornings per week, 2.5 hours daily, for a 10- to 12-week period. Students on average will work at 8 to 10 different worksites over a 2 year period. Job coaching is provided weekly. In the afternoons the students participate in school-based activities focusing on life skills geared towards increasing independence. This functional curriculum focuses on five areas of independence: communication/social skills, personal finances, work skills, life skills, and healthy lifestyles.

Expectations

- students maintain appropriate grooming habits
- students wear proper attire for work and interviews
- students must have a desire to be more independent and the drive to acquire more employability skills
- complete life-skills homework daily

Community Connections

Many community connections have been established over the past 25 years:

Cleaning — Tim Horton's, Burger King

Food Preparation — St. Hubert, Cora's, Kelsey's

Grocery Stores — Independent, Loblaws

Stock — Canadian Tire, Giant Tiger, Sears

Assessment

- evaluations completed by the worksite supervisor (mid-term and final evaluation)
- alternative reports will be completed by Storefront School staff (November, February, April, June)
- no grades or credits are given

Completion of Program

- successful completion of program earns students a Storefront Certificate
- Storefront Award given to one senior student each year
- graduation held at Ottawa Technical Secondary School

Staff

Tanya Ashton — Special Education Teacher
Nancy Ford — Job Coach/Education Assistant

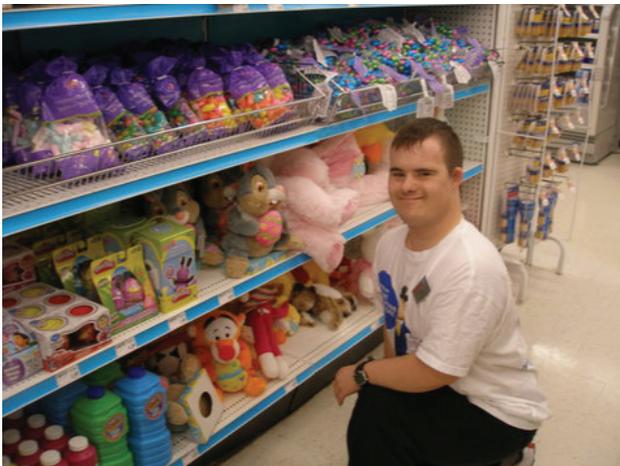
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Jac washing dishes at Bigg's Restaurant



Rob working at cash at Perkin's Family Restaurant



Carl stocking shelves at Shoppers Drug Mart



Class trip to Old Montreal, June 2012

Published by Storefront Schools and Communications and Information Services — October 2012



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