

## **Skills for Adult Independent Living (SAIL) 2018**

Wendi Austin: SAIL stands for Skills for Adult Independent Living. So, we service adult aged students, 17 to 26, and our program is really designed to give life skills and job skills for students to attain a level of independence as they graduate from the program. Sara Kribs: We teach skills for job placement, being able to meet their IEP (Individualized Education Program) goals, we're working on functional reading and math, mobility skills, being able to communicate to co-workers, and bosses in the community. We're also involved in getting our students to be able to do leisure and recreation activities, as well as health and well-being, what we call intentional community experiences. And each student has to, on their own think of where they would want to go, something that they would want to do, with friends and maybe one or two staff members, and it's a great way for students to be able to get the skill of how to entertain themselves and friends once they leave. Wendi Austin: Inside the classroom we have a lot of opportunities to work on home- living skills; cooking, cleaning, laundry, home-ec type things; vacuuming, all those types of skills to just develop a sense of what you have to do as an adult, all those fun things we all do, as we matriculate through life. Sara Kribs: SAIL has 15 different establishments that we work in. A job coach takes two or three students out to each site, and they work on being able to communicate, do activities that are functional, such as problem solving and function as they would as a member of the community partaking in a job opportunity. Wendi Austin: We need students to have a level of independence, so we need students who are cognitively aware enough to be in the community and be safe at all times, so that we don't present any kind of danger to themselves or others. The biggest and most important prerequisite is a motivation and a desire to work. Our program is a work-based program, and so we need students that want to work, that have a desire to work, that have a desire to get to the next level, and attain that independence. We have information on the Ingham ISD website, so you can look under the Transition Programs, and we're listed there. They can also contact our supervisor Sarah Winslow. Every district that works and collaborates with the ISD is aware of our program, and so if they were to contact their special ed coordinator within their building, or special ed director, they could also help connect them to us and get the necessary information. Our students are, to some extent, outgrowing our current job sites. So, we have had to start looking at ways to make the job sites a little bit more intricate, a little bit more advanced, and it's also forced us to start to look at some other job sites, to just meet our students at the level that they're getting to, so that just goes to reinforce how important this is, how much students can grow, and how much they can learn, and it also lets us know that as we collect that data, how much it reinforces how we can take them to the next level, and what that should look like.

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