

How our resources can help with making the most of summer



Summer is a great time to get out and explore what is happening locally

Our latest planning guide, ['How to be part of the world of work'](#), has lots of ideas about building links in your local community.

There are ideas about getting to know your local area, such as visiting community centres to find out what is going on or using local Facebook pages to find out about nearby events (pages 12-14). Also, ideas about making a map of the neighbourhood to mark places you already know and those you want to learn more about (see information below about community mapping). Local groups, organisations and businesses benefit from seeing that people with learning disabilities are keen to be involved and have lots to contribute.

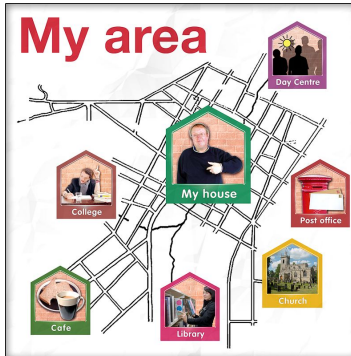
Summer holidays may be an ideal time to approach local employers to ask if they could offer a few hours of work to someone interested in trying new experiences and learning more about themselves and what they enjoy. Alternatively, there may be opportunities to volunteer at summer events. Have a look at pages 30-31 of the guide to learn how a one-page profile can be used by someone to tell others about themselves and how they would like to be supported when volunteering or working.

There are also suggestions in the guide (pages 15-16) about specific skills someone might like to practice that help with preparing for work, and in life more generally. Summer holidays can provide great opportunities to develop skills and confidence.

'How to be part of the world of work' can be downloaded [here](#)

There may also be opportunities to give people support with making more choices. Have a look at [I'm Thinking Ahead: How to make choices](#) to gain ideas to spend meaningful time talking about choice-making.

You'll find more ideas about supporting people to build friendships and their circles of support in [Thinking Ahead: Building friendships and support networks](#).



Community Mapping

Community mapping is a tool to get to know more about your local area. It can help with thinking about people, places, organisations and businesses in the local area with a view to:

- Meet people who share interests
- Take part in new activities and hobbies
- Find volunteering and work opportunities.

Learn more about community mapping on page 34 of [I'm Thinking Ahead: How to be part of the world of work](#).

A local version

Would you like the local authority, where you live or work, to have its own version of 'I'm Thinking Ahead: How to be part of the world of work'?

We are able to create local versions of this guide through the addition of a section with information about local services and organisations, plus the authority's logo. This should help to create a greater focus on employment.

Your area would have the benefit of a local document that could be used and shared across schools, colleges, care management, preparing for adulthood teams and employment support services. It would also support families in thinking about work possibilities.

Please [e-mail](#) to find out more, including costs.
Click [here](#) to see the version created for Essex.

Workshops and training

We offer a variety of workshops and training for family carers, practitioners and support providers on using the Thinking Ahead planning guides to develop skills around future planning.

Have a look at ['Our Work'](#) on the Together Matters website for more information about these and other workshops, as well as our training and development support.



If you work in a school or college that is about to break for the holidays, please share this newsletter with students and parent carers.

Please forward our e-newsletter to anyone else who may be interested in our work.

[Email](#) us if you are not on our mailing list and would like to be added.

Visit our website for more information and lots of FREE resources

www.togethermatters.org.uk
