

# Maximizing Vocational & Independent Living Skills for Individuals with Autism

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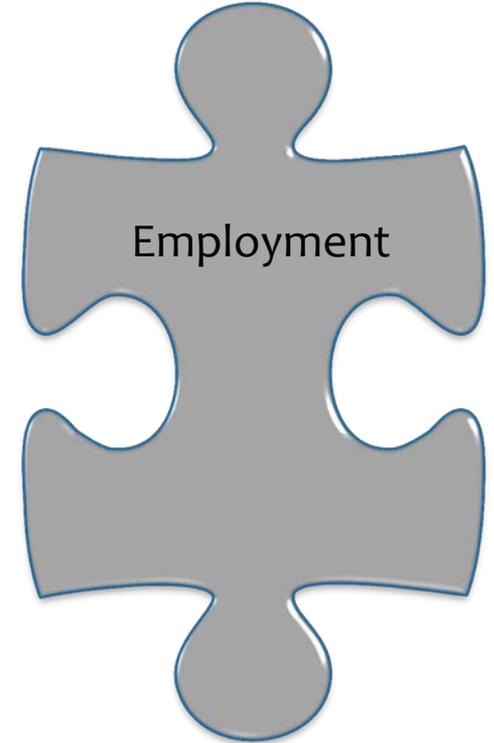
**CENTRA**

Autism Program

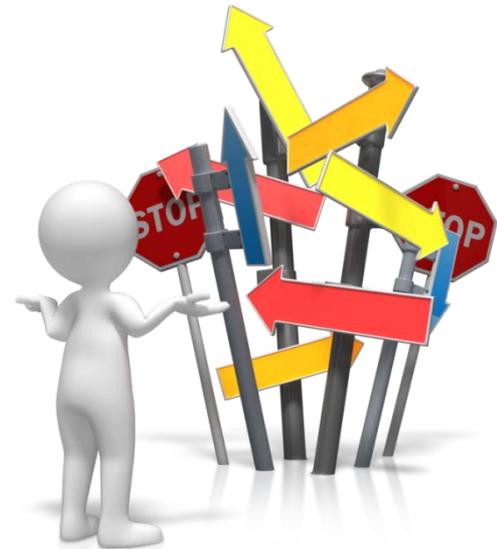
# Objectives

- \* Participants will understand why there is a need for vocational and independent living skills training
- \* Participants will learn crucial strategies to teach vocational and independent living skills
- \* Participants will understand how to individualize programs that are student and family centered
- \* Participants will be exposed to data from our own vocational programs to demonstrate functionality and success rate of programs
- \* Participants will learn how to assess the functionality and success of vocational and independent living skills training
- \* Participants will learn why generalization is a critical component to any vocational or independent living skills training program

# Why is there a need?



“Without this kind [vocational and independent living] of planning and preparation our students with ASD are at risk for lifelong dependence on others.”



# Let's talk law...

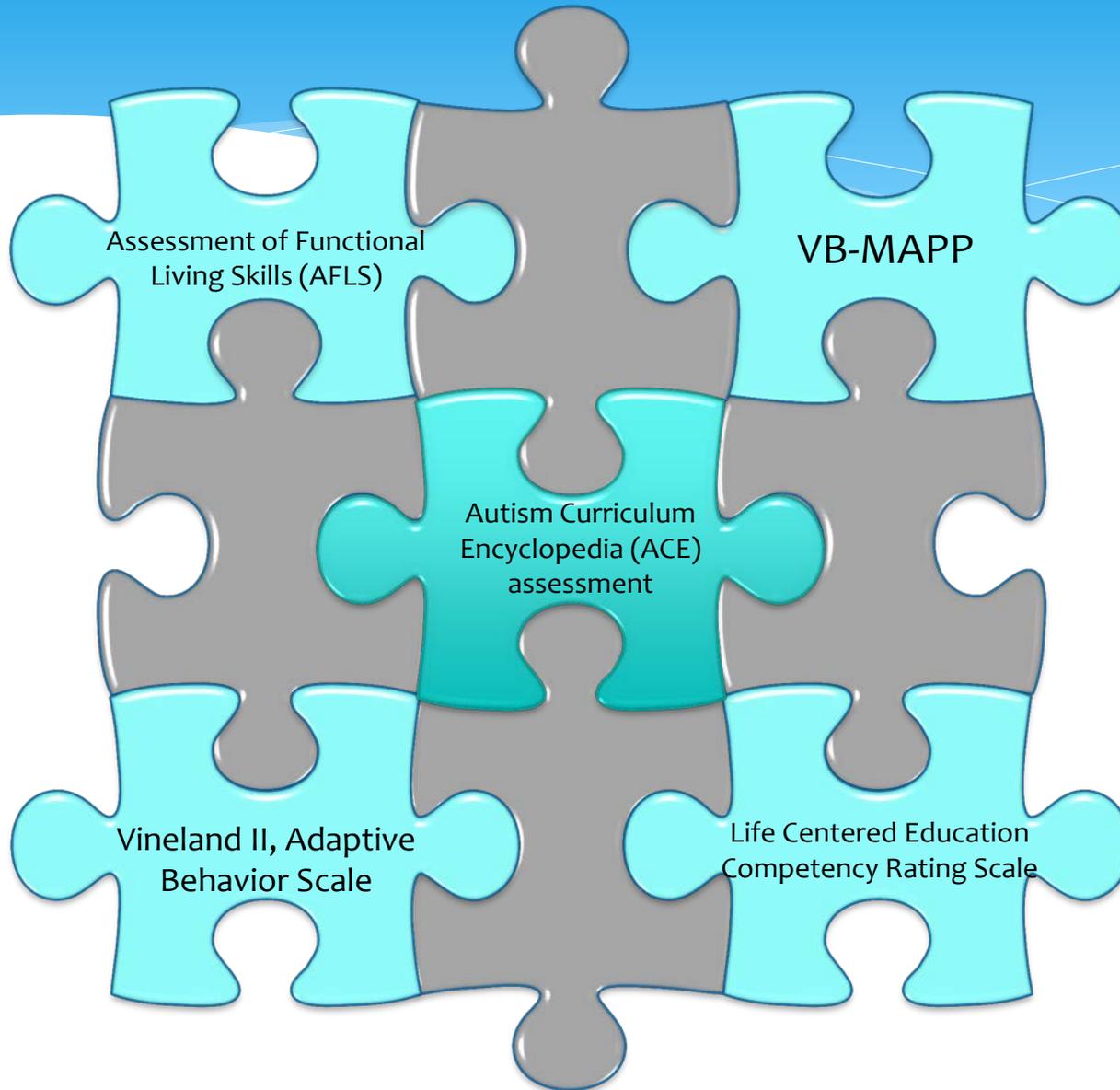
- \* Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA)
  - \* Transitional services are a legal requirement by age 14



Where do we start?



# Assessments for Transition



# Why Interest Inventories ?

- \* Would you like to do a job that you hated?
  - \* Determine jobs that have reinforcing qualities



We have the assessment  
results... now what?



# Arranging Mock Settings

- \* Use a small room to set up a bedroom area
  - \* Materials to make the bed – sheets, comforters, pillows
  - \* Dressers and clothes – practice folding clothes and putting them away in the dresser/hanging them up
- \* Kitchen area
  - \* Dishes, utensils, cups, etc. – practice sorting, putting items away
  - \* If a sink is available practice washing dishes



# How to Guarantee Success in in the Work Place



Set clear expectations of job responsibilities



Ensure participant is comfortable with all skills that are required



Plan & schedule observations in the work place



Brief your learners so they know what to expect and if there are going to be any changes



Generalize skills across different people and settings



Model skills you are teaching to the student as a teaching procedure



Ensure that “social skills” are targeted in the workplace



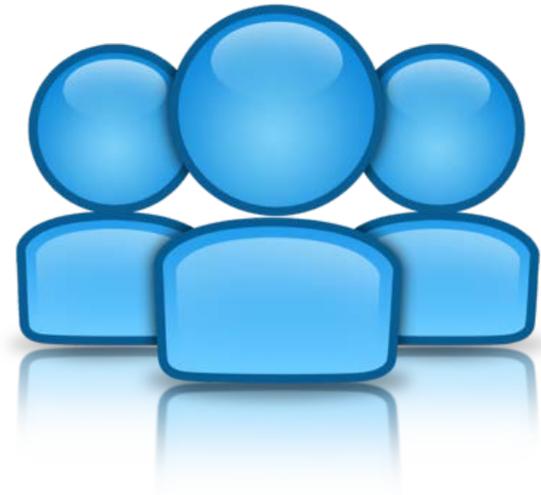
# Centra Autism Program's Implementation of Functional Living Skills



*Assess*  
*Teach*  
*Analyze*

# Participants in study

- \* Demographic information
  - \* 7 Students of Centra's Autism Program at Roanoke
  - \* 1 female 6 males (1 male attrition)
  - \* Ages range from 7-16
  - \* Grade range from 1<sup>st</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>



# Baseline Data

- \* 4 Task Analysis (TAs)

- \*

	TA 1	TA 2	TA 3	TA 4
Student A	0%	17%	25%	36%
Student B	61%	0%	35%	86%
Student C	50%	67%	39%	29%
Student D	67%	42%	69%	86%
Student E	39%	33%	22%	0%
Student F	17%	0%	28%	36%

# Overview of final data

	TA 1	TA 2	TA 3	TA 4
Student A	28%	0%	7%	7%
Student B	-2%	0%	4%	0%
Student C	-6%	-50%	-4%	14%
Student D	33%	47%	12%	0%
Student E	5%	-33%	39%	14%
Student F	16%	0%	3%	7%

# Next steps for our participants

Generalization

Family Training

Continuation of  
Skills

# IMPORTANCE OF GENERALIZATION



# What is Generalization

- \* It's a “spreading” or “expansion” of teaching, beyond what was directly or intentionally done.



# What is Generalization?

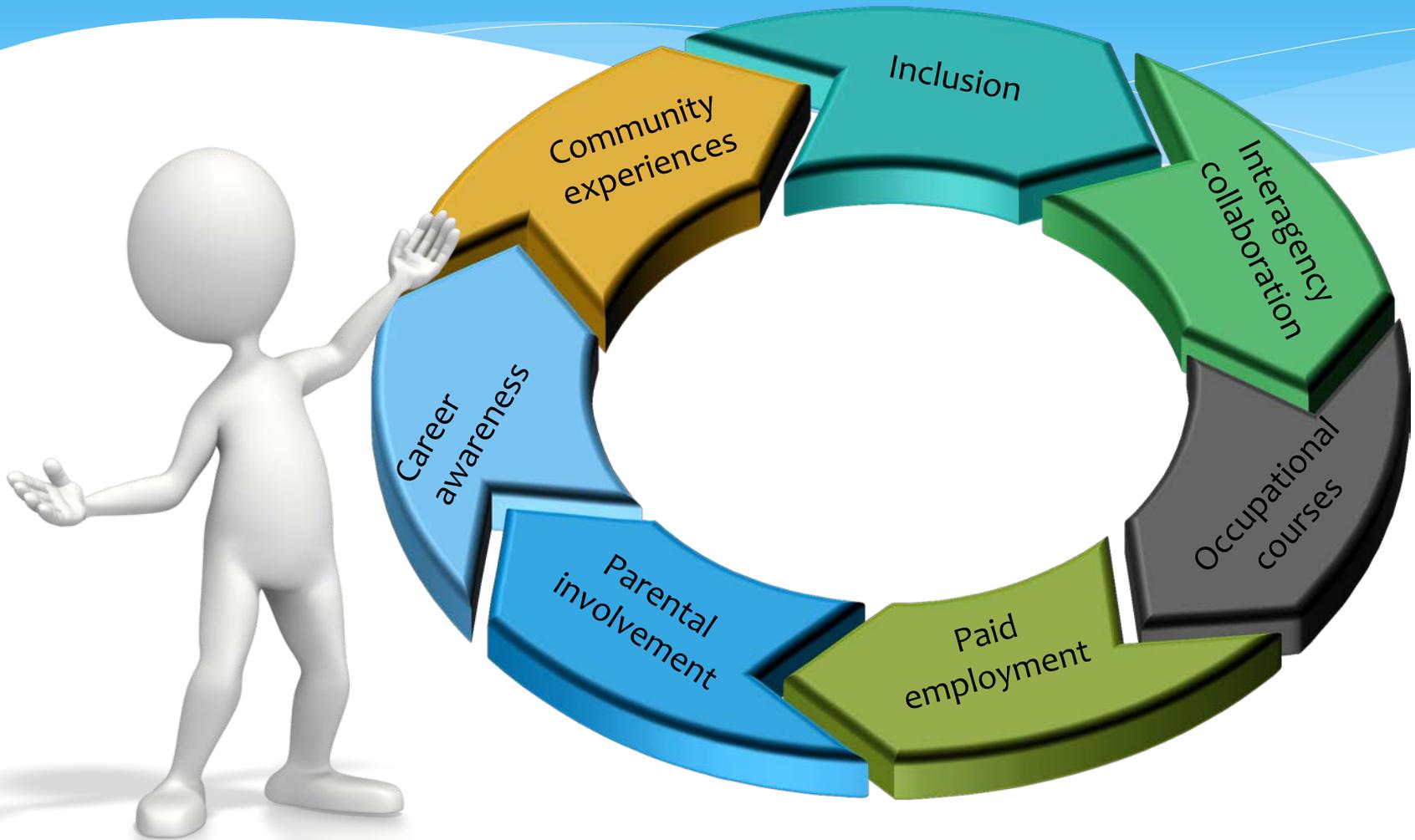
- \* Skills must occur across various settings, people and stimuli as well as over time.
- \* Crucial component of ANY program!



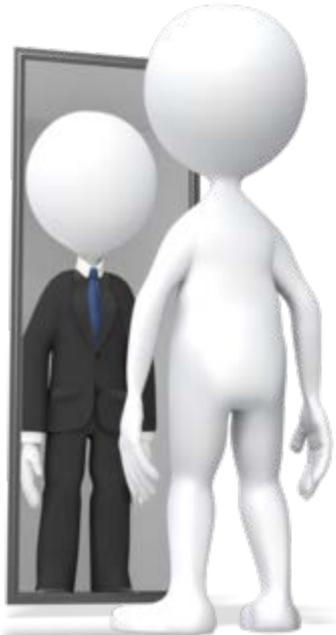
What's so important about  
generalization anyway?



# Best Outcomes



# Hopes & Dreams



“Maybe I’d like a full time job and a better apartment. I’d like to get a job fixing computers or something to do with computers in a computer store. I might want to get a scooter. I want to try scuba diving and see all the different kinds of fish, go swimming in the ocean and travel to some tropical place.”

–*Christopher O’Connor*

# Question & Answer



# For more information about Centra Autism Program....

- \* Visit [www.centraautism.com](http://www.centraautism.com)
- \* Contact
  - \* Crystal Collette
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# Thank you to all of our contributors!

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