

Meet Jacob

Member Story

Guided practice becomes real-world progress.

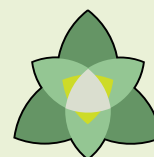
Jacob's journey to employment began with the Transition to Employment (TTE) program. The program helps build workplace and personal skills. He was able to practice those skills with guidance on the SensABLE Snacks food truck. Easterseals PORT Health operates this truck as a learning lab with on-the-job professional development. Jacob practiced handling money, serving customers, and following step-by-step directions. He also worked on skills that help him feel confident at work, like shaking hands, making eye contact, providing customer service, and being part of a team.

For Jacob, joining TTE was about more than learning job tasks. "This program helps me grow as a person and teaches me how to get along with others," he shared. "It helps me come out of my shell." With support from program staff, Jacob learned financial literacy, gained confidence, and focused on becoming "the best version" of himself. He credits his friends, his family, and God as important supporters, too.

Those skills made a difference when Jacob interviewed at Kentucky Fried Chicken. The manager was impressed by how he carried himself and how confidently he answered questions. Before he knew it, Jacob had a follow-up interview and a job offer. Now, Jacob works as part of the KFC team, where he greets customers, assists in the kitchen, and builds on the skills he practiced in TTE. He says working has helped him improve his cooking, sharpen his focus, and feel more confident. It also allows him to save money and work toward his life goals.

When he's not at work, Jacob enjoys exercising, reading, sketching, and improving his writing. He is enthusiastic about video games and hopes to become an independent video game developer. When he talks about his job, his growth shows clearly: "I've got this. I know how to do the job. I can do it all in my head and get it done."

Looking back, Jacob says he is most proud of how much he has grown mentally, physically, and spiritually over the past year and a half. His story reflects dedication, support, and the real progress that comes from believing in yourself and putting in the work.



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