

collegeautismspectrum.com/media/collegeautismspectrum-brochure.pdf
To help you make an informed decision on a career in ICT/ IT Microsoft© has created Microsoft© Learning, with a Career Portal to assist people interested in IT make informed decisions about the field. <http://www.microsoft.com/learning/career/en/us/default.aspx>

And here is a list of all colleges in Minnesota with degree programs specifically designed for the ICT field. <http://www.mncdd.org/asd-employment/pdf/09-MNC-DQ.pdf>
This information can be found at: <http://www.mncdd.org/asd-employment/5-supporting-minnesotans.html>

8. WILL VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION HELP YOU WITH COLLEGE AND OTHER SUPPORT SERVICES?

Here is the link to the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development's Vocational Rehabilitation Services.

http://www.positivelyminnesota.com/JobSeekers/People_with_Disabilities/index.aspx

iSeek is an easy and fast way to do your own research on all careers, the pathways to reach them, average salaries, educational requirements, and the projected outlooks for individuals seeking a career or career change.

<http://www.iseek.org/>

- » Education and Employment <http://www.iseek.org/>

- » Clusters of jobs <http://www.iseek.org/careers/clusters.html>
- » Careers in Demand <http://www.iseek.org/careers/indemand.html>
- » Match Skills to Careers <http://www.iseek.org/careers/skillsAssessment>
- » Online Assessments <http://www.iseek.org/careers/assessyourself.html>

9. IF YOUR SON OR DAUGHTER NEEDS ADDITIONAL HELP WITH SOCIAL SKILLS BE FAMILIAR WITH THE DIFFERENT ACCOMMODATIONS THAT WILL WORK FOR YOU:

Employment outcomes for individuals with ASD have traditionally been poor. Begin the process of educating yourself about the eight accommodations that may facilitate successful employment: <http://www.mncdd.org/asd-employment/5a-employment-autism.html>

- » Clarify job expectations
- » Use visuals to instruct and organize
- » Communicate in a direct manner
- » Structure the workplace to avoid distractions or sensory overloads
- » Minimize multi-task assignments
- » Allow for independent roles, assign a job mentor
- » Establish job routines
- » Work with a job coach

Contact AuSM (Autism Society of Minnesota) for Social Skills learning and other workshops. <http://www.ausm.org/>

10. YES, THERE ARE MANY SUCCESS STORIES:

Learn how others took the challenge and found success. One individual began his career as a volunteer, another became a subcontractor and one applied for a job in a more typical fashion and was employed. All then moved ahead and grew in their chosen fields.

See the steps they followed by going to the computer and locating the Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities website: <http://www.mncdd.org/asd-employment/2b-mn-success-asd.html>

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Is your son or daughter interested in a future in technology ?

Top 10 Actions that Individuals and Families can take

IT IS NEVER TOO EARLY OR TOO LATE TO PLAN FOR THIS FUTURE CAREER

1. BEGIN WITH THE END RESULT IN MIND:

Your son or daughter may be on the autism spectrum, but visualize him or her employed in the world of technology. Though the range of positions is wide, it is important that one be qualified in order to be hired, retained and promoted. Prospective employers look for people with education and experience. That may mean some postsecondary education, two and four-year college degrees, paid work experiences, and additional certifications in technology fields.

To help put your son or daughter on the track for success, encourage them to study and learn in school, seek out a part-time job or volunteer experience, and to take advantage of the opportunities for eye-opening discoveries that digital technology provides.

2. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE LITERATE IN TECHNOLOGY?

Familiarize yourself with the multifaceted world of information, communications and technology, or ICT, as it is known. Come to understand that ICT impacts almost everything, and that ICT literacy is of great value today, and essential for the future.

The Digital Economy is here, and people on the autism spectrum must be included. To learn more, go to

The Future Is Now! <http://www.mncdd.org/asd-employment/3b-future-now.html>

See what is happening in technology in Minnesota. <http://www.mncdd.org/asd-employment/3c-media-coverage.html>

3. INVOLVE YOUR SON AND DAUGHTER IN COMPUTER CAMPS AND OTHER EXPERIENCES:

Make sure your son or daughter is exposed and involved EARLY through information, communication, and technology games and other creative outlets. Computer camps can be found in many school districts across the State of Minnesota and can be located through:

COMPUTER EXPLORERS
<http://www.mncdd.org/asd-employment/5b-computer-camps.html>

MACALESTER TECH CAMPS FOR CHILDREN
<http://www.internaldrive.com/locations/mn-summer-camps-minnesota-computer-camps/macalester-college-minneapolis-area>

Check out the Science Museum in St Paul <http://www.smm.org/lc/>

4. BEGIN BY ASSESSING DIGITAL LITERACY SKILLS:

You know your son or daughter better than anyone else, but here is a useful tool. It is a Life Skills assessment tool: Casey Life Skills Assessment http://www.caseylifeskills.org/pages/assess/assess_index.htm

Assess your child's ICT literacy. You may also want to assess your own ICT knowledge too and note the differences between how you and your son or daughter understand the topic. California ICT Digital Literacy Assessments and Curriculum Framework <http://www.ictliteracy.info/rf.pdf/California%20ICT%20Assessments%20and%20Curriculum%20Framework.pdf>

5. LOOK AT WHAT SOME SCHOOLS ARE DOING TO PREPARE STUDENTS FOR THE 21st CENTURY:

"To succeed in college and career, students must be able to learn, apply, and adapt in all subjects...by fusing core content knowledge in the major subjects (the "three Rs") with 21st century skills focused around Critical thinking and problem solving, Communication, Collaboration, and Creativity and innovation (the "four Cs")."

21st Century Readiness for Every Child. This report has empirically tested recommendations for preparing all children for the future. http://www.p21.org/documents/Principles%20and%20Recommendations%20for%2021st%20Century%20Readiness_ESEA%20Reauthorization_100326.pdf

6. CONSIDER VIRTUAL SCHOOLS OR THE PERPICH CENTER FOR ARTS EDUCATION

You have come to understand how your son or daughter learns best. Here is a list of high schools in Minnesota that may be well suited for your child. Read about the innovative programs available, and their results. This information can be found under the Supporting Minnesotans section of <http://www.mnddc.org/asd-employment/5c-high-schools.html>
The Perpich Center for Arts Education: <http://www.pcae.k12.mn.us>
Here is a list of Virtual High Schools: <http://distancelearn.about.com/od/onlinepublicschools/a/MinnesotaPublic>
Wilostar 3D Virtual Education: <http://www.wilostar3d.com/default.asp?ild=HILHG>

7. DO YOU WANT TO CONSIDER A SPECIALIST TO ASSIST IN THE TRANSITION FROM HIGH SCHOOL TO COLLEGE?

College Autism Spectrum is an independent organization whose sole purpose is to assist students with autism spectrum disorders and families. Consider this resource for your post-secondary education planning.
Website: <http://www.collegeautismspectrum.com/>
Brochure: <http://www.collegeautismspectrum.com/>