

Preparing for Work:

Tips and tools for and by individuals with disabilities

VOCATIONAL THEME

What are Vocational Themes?

Vocational themes are not job descriptions, but rather broad areas that match who you are and the skills and contributions you bring to a job.

For example, if someone likes tinkering with cars and is good with their hands, that might indicate a “mechanical” theme. Someone who particularly enjoys dogs, and has skills in working with dogs, may have a broader “animal” theme.

VOCATIONAL THEMES are broad areas that may include many jobs	
Thinking in themes versus job descriptions – can help you identify places to begin your job search	
<i>Examples:</i>	
Fixing a bike or car	Mechanics
Making cookies	Food Preparation, Culinary
Computer repair	Technology

Vocational Themes are based on more than interests. The tasks you enjoy, your skills and other contributions, as well as personality traits may all help to identify Vocational Themes.

Your Vocational Themes	
<i>EXAMPLE</i>	
<i>Interest/Contributions</i>	<i>Emerging Themes</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Skilled in repairing bikes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mechanical
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enjoys crafts, sews, knits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Textiles
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fix computer hardware, software	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Technology
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cooking, baking	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Culinary, Food preparation

More videos and resources found at:

<https://drexel.edu/autisminstitute/research-projects/projects/Transition-Pathways/>

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Matching Interests to Potential Vocational Themes

Draw a line between the interest and the corresponding Vocational Theme:

<i>Interest</i>	<i>Potential Vocational Theme</i>
Using an iPad	Outdoors/Nature
Hiking	Advocacy
Tattoos	Art
Clothes	Agriculture
Gardening	Technology/Computers
Helping People in Need	Fashion

Think about your own interest, as well as your skills and the tasks you enjoy to develop your own Vocational Themes:

INTERESTS, SKILLS, TASKS

EMERGING THEMES

**Resource adapted from: LEAD Center, Guided Group Discovery | 2017 Edition*

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