

Employment Pathways

Gain early work experience and work towards personal goals

Why connect?

Many teens with disabilities want to participate in the world of work. High school students often start by doing chores, volunteering, taking co-op and getting part-time or summer jobs.

Do you have questions about how to get started or are you looking for support? Join us to learn more about the employment pathway programs offered at Holland Bloorview.

Who is eligible?

Youth who:

- Are living with a disability¹ and want to start to build work experience
- Are in high-school² - grades 9, 10, 11 or 12
- Have questions about how to start or are looking for support

How to connect – Employment Information and Consultation Sessions for youth & caregivers

We hold Information Sessions monthly. Contact us to sign up (see below).

Youth and a parent (or other family member) must attend the information and consultation session together. Application forms will be available at the session.

Session overview:

- Why early work experience is important and how it helps – hear from Youth Mentors
- What programs/services are available to support you – see next page
- *Youth:* See what our programs are like. Participate in a work experience activity and a team ice-breaker.
- Personal consultation and application (if you wish to join our programs)
- After attending this session and if you complete an application form, we will recommend programs or services to support you.

RSVP:

- Spots in these sessions are limited and we do have a waitlist to participate.
- Contact us to be scheduled for the next available session. Email our shared mailbox employmentpathways@hollandbloorview.ca or call x3328



Overview of our programs & services:

	Who	When	What
Youth@Work	High school students ages 15-21 who want to build life skills, learn about their strengths and interests, and get work experience. Parent/ caregiver must attend some meetings.	9 days over 3 weeks during the Summer	You do work placements with Holland Bloorview and earn volunteer hours. A job coach supports you to work on your goals and learn your roles. You meet other participants for employment skills workshops. You participate in career development activities including mentoring.
Volunteer-ABLE		9 Saturday sessions during the school year	
Employment Action Coaching	High school or post-secondary students ² who want to actively look for a volunteer position and/or paid job. Parent/ caregiver member must attend all sessions.	Fall & Winter start dates Weekend group sessions and 1:1 meetings (~ 7 over 3-6 months)	You set a job search goal, make an action plan, learn how to job search, and make your goal happen. You also learn about employment resources you can use when you need them.
Ready to Work <i>accepted only after participating in other programs</i>	High school or post-secondary students ² who want a summer job may be eligible based on past participation. Information is sent to eligible youth in November or December each year.	Group and individual preparation + 8 weeks during July/August or 8+ weeks for post-secondary students	Holland Bloorview job coaches help you connect with a Toronto employer and get you started in your paid summer job. You apply and interview to be part of Ready to Work after participating in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of Youth@Work <u>or</u> VolunteerABLE <u>and</u> • Employment Action Coaching

Notes:

1. Our programs are open to youth who are in high school and who have a physical and/or intellectual disability and/or an autism spectrum disorder. We also support youth who may have mental health challenges in *addition* to their physical or intellectual disability. During high school, if not already a client of Holland Bloorview, youth with disabilities listed above can join our experience programs.
2. **Past clients** of Holland Bloorview's Employment Pathways programs (Youth@Work or VolunteerABLE) who are now in **post-secondary** education may be eligible for some programs and/or consultation services.
3. We provide attendant services in many of our group programs and job coaching but not 1:1 support for medical or behavioural needs. If needed, it is the participant's responsibility to schedule and pay for their own 1:1 assistance. We request that 1:1 support be provided by a non-family member.
4. There are fees for most programs but financial assistance may be available.

These programs are linked to our organization's priority to support transitions to adult life. All of our employment programs are supported by donations to the Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital Foundation.

