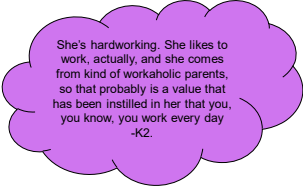




RESULTS:

- Only 3 personal barriers to employment were identified by parents, physical demands of work (n = 2) supervision needs (n = 7), and transportation (n = 11).
- The majority of parents perceived their emerging adults' skills as **assets to employment above and beyond their areas of need**.
- Most emerging adults had expressed to their parents a desire for a particular job or career:



- All parents described work as an important part of their emerging adults' development into adulthood.
- Yet all parents shared that employment for their emerging adults with Down syndrome was something they were still exploring.

DISCUSSION:

- Parents see **work as essential** (De La Garza et al., 2023).
- Previous research has emphasized **the importance of job fit** for people with Down syndrome (Channell et al., 2023).
- The findings in this study can help professionals understand **the concerns and considerations of parents** seeking to assist their emerging adults with Down syndrome to find competitive employment.

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Despite multiple personal facilitators towards employment for emerging adults with Down syndrome, parents reported that none were competitively employed.



Emerging Adults' Demographics as Reported by Parents								
Pseudonym	Age	Sex	Race	Ethnicity	School Type	Funding Type	Job Type	Extracurriculars
K3	26	F	A	N	General Education	Public Funding	Adaptive Sports*	Zumba
Joe	22	M	W	N	Center School	Scholarships	x	Theater
Pink	23	F	W	N	Center School	Scholarships	Teacher's Assistant*	Basketball
Mermaid	21	F	W	N	Resource Room	Public Funding	Café Worker*	Swimming
Termite	25	F	W	H	Center School	Tuition	x	Gymnastics
Cookie	24	M	W	N	Center School	Tuition & Scholarships	Adult Day Program	Basketball
Victoria	22	F	W	H	Resource Room	Public Funding	Adult Work Program	Swimming
Vachi	23	F	W	H	Separate Class	Public Funding	Program: Bakery	Swimming
Pita	26	F	W	H	Center School	Tuition, Scholarships, & Public Funding	Adult Work Program	Powerlifting
Apple Pie	29	M	W	H	Center School	Scholarships	-	-
Poto	20	M	W	H	-	-	-	-

Note: M = Male, F = Female, A =Asian Indian, W = White, H = Hispanic/Latino, and N = Not Hispanic/Latino. A dash (-) indicates missing data. A star (*) indicates a volunteer position.



Work as Joy: Parental Perspectives on Barriers and Facilitators to Employment for Emerging Adults With Down Syndrome



PRESENTER:
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BACKGROUND:

- Down syndrome (DS) is the **leading genetic explanation** for intellectual disability and is often associated with developmental delays.
- A successful transition to adulthood involves growth in independent living, **employment preparedness**, and community involvement.

- The study implemented a qualitative phenomenological approach to interviewing **parents of emerging adults with Down syndrome** about their experiences with work readiness.

METHODS:

- **11 parents** (8 mothers and 3 fathers) were interviewed.
- Parents were interviewed via Zoom and they were asked open-ended questions to facilitate **in-depth responses**.
- Using **MaxQDA software**, data were coded and analyzed using Interpretive Phenomenological Analysis.

Questioning Route

1. Tell me about your child.
2. What does a typical day look like for your child?
3. What does it mean for your child to be an "adult"?
4. How do you feel about your child becoming an adult?
5. What does it mean for your child to be independent?
6. What is your child's living situation at the moment?
7. What comes to mind when you think about work and your child?
8. How does your child access transportation (e.g., if they wanted to get to work, to the grocery store, etc.)?
9. What is your child doing now in your community?