



RESEARCH RUNDOWN

Evaluation of the Building Independence Pilot Project

We are evaluating the process and outcomes of the *Building Independence Pilot Project*, a new community service program to help young adults with autism spectrum disorders develop appropriate job acquisition and work skills.

What is this research about?

The Building Independence Pilot Project provides employment preparation training workshops to young adults on the autism spectrum. The purpose of this research is to evaluate the Building Independence Pilot Project in terms of its process and outcomes.

What will the researchers do?

To measure outcomes, we will be asking workshop applicants to answer some questionnaires about their job activities and well-being. Workshop applicants that are accepted into the employment preparation training program will also complete some direct assessments of their job seeking skills, before and after the employment preparation workshops.

To assess the process, workshop applicants and their parents will be asked about their experiences at different times throughout the Building Independence Pilot Project. We will also assess the satisfaction of Building Independence team members with how the project is going, approximately twice per year.

What the researchers hope to find?

We hope to learn about the impact of the Building Independence Pilot Project from the perspective of workshop applicants, their families, and members of the Building Independence team.

Why is it important?

Supports for individuals on the autism spectrum are available throughout childhood and adolescence but there are few service options available to support these individuals as they transition into adulthood. Young adults

What you need to know:

We are evaluating an employment preparation training program for young adults with autism spectrum disorders to learn about the impact of this program. What we learn throughout the process will help us improve the program and aid in future development of such programs.

with autism spectrum disorders have meaningful contributions to make to society, want to contribute, and would benefit from the responsibility and independence that results from employment, but they need help with the transition into the workforce. The Building Independence Pilot Project addresses a gap in services and supports for young adults on the autism spectrum by offering employment preparation training workshops. What we learn along the way will help us improve the process and development of such programs, which will help contribute to increased independence and improved quality of life.





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Research Team

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Additional Resources

For more information about The Ability Hub (Calgary) visit:
www.theabilityhub.com

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At the time of writing this project was ongoing, version date: February, 2015. Latest versions are available at: <http://stamant.ca/research/our-research/project-summaries/>