

April 26, 2005

*My Transition Story*  
*For the Adolescent Transition Resource Notebook*

My name is Mike and I'm 21 years old. My disability is called Autism. I am good at organizing things. I like to build or work on things. I'm good at reading, using computers, technology, and math.

This is my second year in a Transition program called Community IMAGES. I was in special education classes in Shadle Park High School and then came to this program at Spokane Community College.

One thing I've learned is to use the STA city bus system to get around Spokane. At first my mom was nervous and she followed the bus in her car. After awhile she trusted me on my own. Now I can get just about anywhere on the bus independently. Work experience is an important part of IMAGES. I have practiced office skills and learned about being accountable and independent on a job.

People in the community treat me like an adult. It feels pretty good.

I'll graduate from IMAGES on June 8, 2005. I have met with Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) to plan my future job. I will be working in a busy, important mailroom at Fairchild Air Force Base as a vocational assessment.

A lot of people helped me get to where I am today. My teachers, my mom, my strive job coach, and my Aunt Vicki have supported me.

I feel more prepared for my future. I was excited to leave high school and start IMAGES. Now I'm excited to finish school and start my adult life.

