

Center on Disability and Development at Texas A&M University

A University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD)



UCEDD Core Functions

- **The DD Act mandates all UCEDDs to perform 4 core functions in one or more emphasis area(s)**
 - Provide pre-service training and continuing education
 - Provide training and technical assistance, and services and support, to individuals with disabilities, family members, and professionals
 - Conduct research and evaluation
 - Information dissemination



CDD Mission

We support individuals with disabilities and their families to be change agents who are valued, contributing community members, as self-defined, through education, research, and knowledge dissemination.



Education Programs



Aggie ACHIEVE

Mission & Vision

❖ **Aggie ACHIEVE is designed with a twofold mission:**

- provide an inclusive and immersive college education;
- equip young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities for employment in the community.

❖ **Students can be enrolled in Aggie ACHIEVE for up to four years as long as they continue to meet eligibility requirements.**

- The first two years of the program are designed to introduce students to college life and academics.
- The last two years focus heavily on independent living and career development, including opportunities for off-campus paid internships in a student's field of interest.



Coursework and Graduation

Courses

- Most are taken for zero-credit except employment internships and PEAP courses
- Can not be transferred to another institution
- Can only take one PEAP course and one A&M course per semester

Certificate

- Students completing all four years will receive Certificate in Interdisciplinary Studies from the School of Education and Human Development



Examples of Courses

Academic Courses

- ANSC 117: Texas BBQ
- ANSC 201: Introduction to Equine Care and Use
- ANSC 326: Food Bacteriology
- BIMS 125: Animals in Society
- ENGL 331: Fantasy Literature
- ENGL 361: Young Adult Literature
- EPFB 210: Family Involvement and Empowerment
- INST 210: Understanding Special Populations
- INST 301: Educational Psychology
- ISTM 210: Fundamentals of Information Systems
- HORT 335: Sociohorticulture
- RPTS 370: Intro to Youth Programs
- RPTS 311: Planning and Implementing Events & Programs
- THAR 281: Theatre History



Coursework

ACHIEVE Seminars

- **Two weekly seminars each semester taught by Aggie ACHIEVE staff members and graduate assistants focused on a range of topics including:**
 - independent living,
 - career awareness,
 - financial literacy,
 - and self-advocacy.

Hullabaloo U First Year Experience Course

- **Enroll in the Hullabaloo U first-year experience class for fall OR spring of their first year. Topics include:**
 - healthy relationships,
 - study skills,
 - time management,
 - and campus resources.



TIME	10/31 SUNDAY	11/1 MONDAY	11/2 TUESDAY	11/3 WEDNESDAY	11/4 THURSDAY	11/5 FRIDAY	11/6 SATURDAY
7:00							
:15							
:30							
:45							
8:00							
:15							
:30							
:45							
9:00							
:15		Check in with Dr. Whirley 9:00-10:00				9:00-10:00 Weekly Appointment	
:30							
:45							
10:00							
:15							
:30		INST 210 Dr. Fogarty 10:20-11:10am ILCB 111			10a-11am Work Out with Trainer		
:45							
11:00							
:15							
:30							
:45							
12:00							
:15		Meeting with Jamie 12p-12:30p					
:30							
:45							
1:00							
:15							
:30							
:45							
2:00							
:15							
:30							
:45							
3:00							
:15							
:30							
:45							
4:00							
:15							
:30							
:45							
5:00							
:15							
:30							
:45							
6:00							
:15							
:30							
:45							
7:00							
:15							
:30							
:45							
8:00							
:15							
:30							
:45							

Grocery Store (if needed)

TAMU Football Game 2p-6p





Employment Preparation



Employment Preparation

Internships are offered through campus and community partnerships to offer hands-on employment experiences in inclusive settings.

- Each student completes one semester of an on-campus internship experience each academic year for the first two years beginning spring of the first year.
- During the last two years, students have the opportunity to venture off-campus to work in a setting more directly aligned with their chosen field specialization.
- In the final year of the program, students will work closely with the Job Developer to identify relevant, inclusive employment opportunities locally or in their hometown/desired post graduation location.





- All Aggie ACHIEVE students participate in independent living seminars weekly that focus on skills such as cooking, cleaning, and self-care.
- During the first two years, students will live on campus.
- During the third year, students will live off campus in an apartment or house in College Station.
- During the fourth year, students can remain in College Station or choose to live in their hometowns/city of interest

Independent Living

ACHIEVEMates

ACHIEVEMates are undergraduate and graduate students from across disciplines who establish relationships with Aggie ACHIEVE students to facilitate natural inclusion in the broader campus community.

- *Academic mentors* assist students with academic coursework and encourage good study habits.
- *Lunch/dinner partners* focus on social skills and healthy eating goals.
- *Wellness partners* engage in a workout or game to encourage safe exercise habits.
- *Daily planners* focus on organizational skills, self-advocacy, and money management.
- *General members at large*





Comprehensive Transition Program (CTP)

- Designated by the U.S. Department of Education
- First in Texas
- Students can apply for federal financial aid
 - Federal Pell Grant
 - Federal Work-Study
 - Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants

Eligibility

- Completed high school and no longer receiving support from the school.
- Between ages 18-27 at the time of entry into the program
- Serve as their own legal guardian
- Documented disability diagnosis of intellectual disability or autism; received special education services in high school with an IEP
- Demonstrate ability to communicate (not limited to verbal speech) reliably with staff, faculty, and mentors.
- Demonstrate ability to live independently and take care of daily functioning and basic support needs (e.g., toileting, hygiene, feeding, etc.)
- Demonstrate at least 3rd grade reading level in comprehension and fluency.

<https://aggieachieve.tamu.edu/admissions/#eligibility>



Admissions for Fall 2025

- **Application will open on our website on October 1st (date may change)**
- **Applications are due by December 1st at 11:59pm**
- **Posted on our website and submitted electronically**
 - \$30 application fee**
 - At least two references**
- **Application Process:**
 - Admissions Committee tasked with evaluating applications anonymously using rubric
 - Selected applicants will be invited to interview in the spring
 - Both the applicant and his/her family must participate in the interview process
- **Anticipated cohort size: 7 to 10 students**



HOME OF THE 12TH MAN



PATHS Program

**Texas A&M
University**

The PATHS Program at Texas A&M University is a postsecondary training program for individuals interested in training for a career in one of three human service fields:

- **Childcare Professional (CCP)**

- Supporting children 0 - 5 in a daycare setting
- Supervising and monitoring the safety of children in their care
- Organizing toys and materials
- Changing diapers of infants and toddlers

- **Direct Support Professional - General (DSP-G)**

- Supporting the elderly in a nursing home, assisted living, hospice, or at-home environment
- Assisting with mobility needs
- Accompanying individuals in community activities
- Supporting individuals with recreational activities

- **Direct Support Professional - Paraprofessional (DSP-P)**

- Supporting students with disabilities in a school setting
- Assisting with instruction
- Helping with data collection
- Escorting students



About PATHS

Childcare curriculum accredited through CCEI; DSP curriculum accredited through the National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals (NADSP)

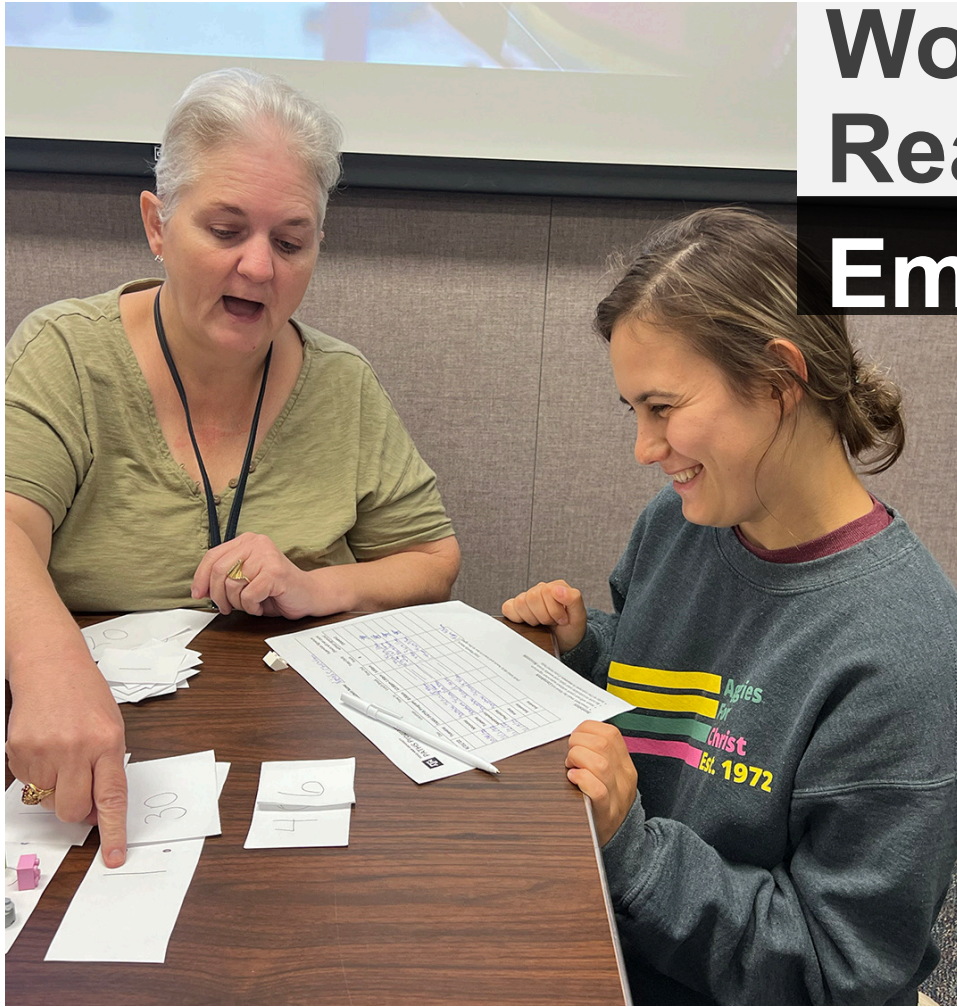


Our Program

Reaching Beyond

The PATHS Program focuses on three main areas of growth for students:

- Workplace Readiness
- Self-Advocacy and Self-Determination
- Independence



Workplace Readiness

Employability Skills

Students receive a well-rounded education addressing skills necessary for success in the workplace such as:

- Content knowledge
- Field-based experience (we develop Student Strategy Plans)
- Professionalism
- Communication
- Socially appropriate behaviors



Self-Advocacy

Self-Determination

Students learn self-advocacy and self-determination skills for use both in the classroom and in the real world:

- Knowing yourself
- Knowing your needs
- Knowing how to get what you need
- Controlling your own life
- Appropriate and independent decision-making

Independence Self-Governance

Students learn and practice independent living skills:

- Take the lead in appropriate decision-making
- Learn how to independently navigate campus and their community
- Independent time management practice for class and work obligations
- Independent living skills
- Respect and support for others' independent journeys





Support Students Services



Assigned Advisors

- Support with study plan development, time management skills, independent living skills, and social skills development

Instructional Aides

- Classroom support
- Tutoring and one-on-one assistance
- Office Hours
- Study Hall

Program Format

Two-Year Model



PATHS Sample Schedule


Summer I 4 weeks	Fall I 16 weeks	Spring I 16 weeks	Summer II 4 weeks	Fall II 16 weeks	Spring II 16 weeks
\	Person-Centered Planning	Field-Based Experience	Person-Centered Targeted Practice	Field-Based Experience	Field-Based Experience w/Skills To Pay The Bills)
Study Skills I	Study Skills II	Practicum (60 hr min)	Study Skills Refresher/Booster	Practicum (210 hr min)	Practicum (210 hr min)
Healthy Relationships I	Healthy Relationships II		Certification Practice		
Budgeting	Intro to Content	Content (Competencies)		Content (Competencies)	Content (Competencies)
Self-Determination	Communication Through Movement		Self-Determination		
Community Day	Library Instruction & Media Literacy		Community Day		
Residential Living	Residential Living	Residential Living	Residential Living	Residential Living	Residential Living
Technology	Independent Study	Independent Study	Independent Study	Independent Study	Independent Study
BVCIL Class	BVCIL Class	BVCIL Class	BVCIL Class	BVCIL Class	BVCIL Class
Tutoring	Professionalism I	Professionalism II	Employment Readiness Refresher		Next Steps (employment readiness)



Paying for College

Visit TWC website

- TWC – Partnership
- Students who are eligible get support to pay for program fees and housing
- It is important for parents to work with their local TWC agency to start the process early
- Currently, most of our students are being supported by TWC or partially supported
- Get in early and complete the paperwork required to make sure students become active with TWC on time



Application Requirements

Students must meet the following criteria to be eligible to apply:

- **Must be at least 18 years of age by the time the program starts**
- **Must be their own guardian**
- **Must have graduated from high school or have a GED**
- **Must be able to pass a criminal background check**



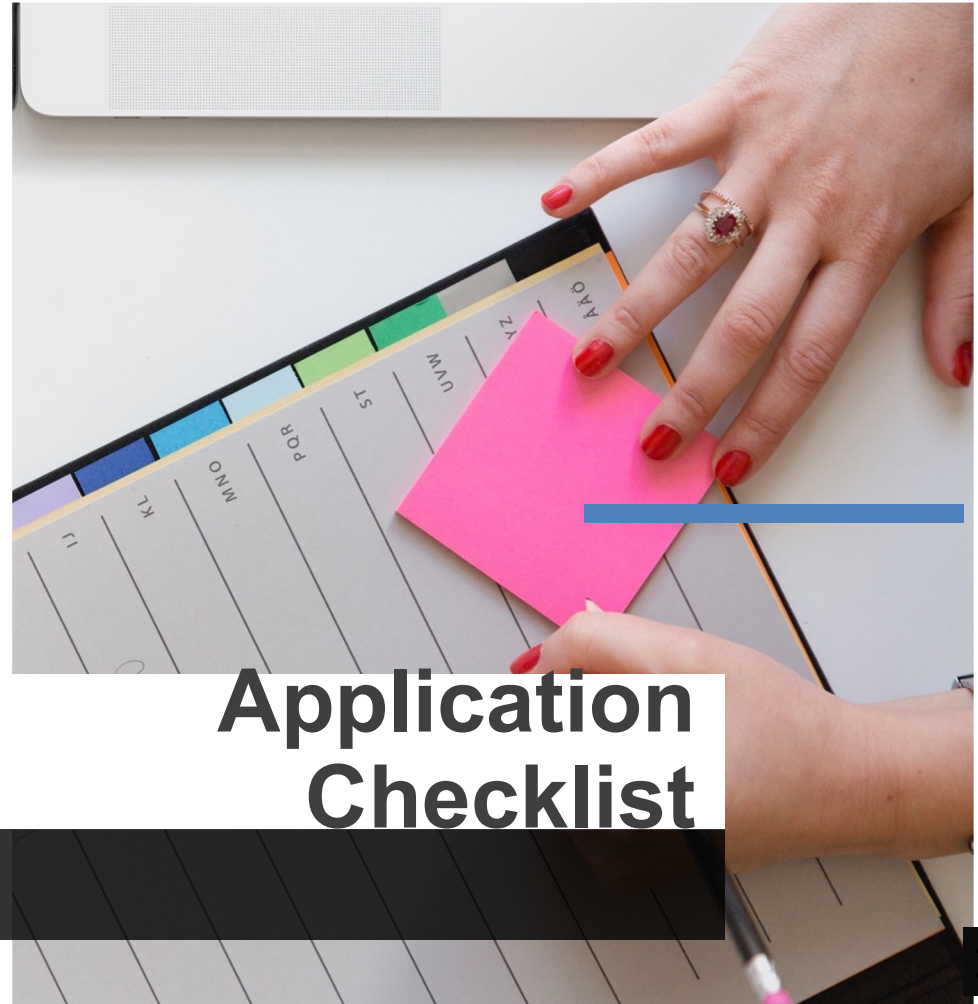
Application Information

Application Process:

- Apply Online at paths.tamu.edu
- Choose your “track”
 - DSP-G – Direct Support Professional General
 - DSP-P – Direct Support Professional Paraprofessional
 - CCP – Child-Care Professional
- Application period is open November 1st, 2023
- Acceptance letters will be mailed April 2024

- Completed online application
- Application fee (\$50)
- Transcript from high school or GED program
- Postsecondary college or other program transcripts or certificates (if applicable)
- Completed essay (traditional written essay, PowerPoint, or video)
- 2 online references completed
- Resume
- Latest Individualized Education Plan (IEP)
- Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP) – if applicable
- Full Individual Evaluation (FIE)
- Psychological Evaluation (if applicable)

If any of the above are missing, the application will be incomplete and will not be considered for review.



Application Checklist



TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION



Work and College Opportunities (WACO) & Horticultural Options in Plant Sciences (HOPS)



Work and College Opportunities (W.A.C.O.)

- Prerequisite for the Horticultural Options in Plant Sciences (HOPS) program.
- 6-week, summer residential program for young adults with disabilities.
- Participants receive development and instruction in professionalism, self-determination, self-advocacy, teamwork, assistive technology, independent living skills, and other related areas connected to employment and college attendance while participating in a paid work experience.
- Link to the WACO project: <https://cdd.tamu.edu/education/waco-project/>



WACO Program Schedule

Week 1 Schedule: Orientation + Trainings

- Navigating the Campus
- Orientation and Mobility Training
- Social Security Benefits Training
- Vocational Adjustment Training (BVCIL) (20 hours)
- TAMU Disability Services Presentation
- Orientation to Canvas (College Online Platform)
- Kitchen Safety Training
- Evening Mentor Meetings

Week 2-6 Schedule: Classes + Work + Cultural Night

Monday/Wednesday

7:00 am – 8:00 am: *Breakfast*
8:30 am – 10:15 am: *Self-Determination Class*
10:30 am – 11:30 am: *Lunch*
12:00 pm – 5:00 pm: *Job Site*
5:30 pm – Dorms: *Culture Night*

Tuesday/Thursday

7:00 am – 8:00 am: *Breakfast*
8:00 am – 9:15 am: *Horticulture Class*
9:30 am – 10:30 am: *Professionalism Class*
10:30 am – 11:30 am: *Lunch*
12:00 pm – 5:00 pm: *Job Site*
5:30 pm – Dorms: *Culture Night*

Friday

7:00am – 8:00 am: *Breakfast*
8:45 am – 9:30 am: *Weekly Reflection Class*
9:30 am – 12:00 pm: *Healthy Relations Class*
12 pm – 1:30 pm: *Lunch*
2:00 pm – 3:30 pm: *Job Wars*

WACO program participants have the opportunity to audit Blinn College courses.



Work and College Opportunities (W.A.C.O.)





Horticultural Options in Plant Sciences (HOPS) Program

- Two-semester, post-secondary certificate program for young adults with disabilities.
- The purpose of the program is to provide instruction and support to gain the necessary skills and experiences in work readiness in order to successfully transition into competitive integrated employment in the horticulture industry.



HOPS Program Career Tracks/Core Courses

Floral Design

- Floral Designer
- Retail Florist
- Wholesale Florist
- Event Designer
- Floral Educator

Landscape Management

- Grounds Maintenance Specialist
- Landscape Technician
- Arborist
- Irrigation Specialist

Greenhouse & Nursery Production

- Propagation Specialist
- Greenhouse Technician
- Nursery Technician
- Garden Center Specialist
- Farm Worker



Enrichment Courses

Students are provided with direct instructions in:

- *Self-advocacy*
Effectively communicate, negotiate or assert personal interests, desires, needs, and rights.
- *Self-determination*
Set goals and take the initiative to reach these goals.
- *Professionalism*
Basics of professional behavior in the work environment. Positioning oneself as a professional and enhancing personal image.
- *Study skills*
Learn how to learn. Develop skills that allow students to manage a college curriculum with greater efficacy and efficiency.



Fall Semester Schedule

HOPS Fall 2022 SCHEDULE

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
900				Hort 102	
915		Hort 102		Landscape	
930			Professionalism	Management	
945		Landscape	9:30-11:00 am	9:10-10:00 am	Tutoring with Shelbi
1000		Management	RELLIS Campus	HFSB 117	9:30-11:00
1015		9:10-11:10am	Ag Workforce		RELLIS Campus
1030		HFSB 117	Room 1101		Ag Workforce
1045				Hort 101 or 104	Room 1101
1100				Hort Principles or	
1115	Hort 103	Hort 103	Hort 105	Plant Production Lab	Hort 105
1130	Floral Design	Floral Design	Retail Horticulture	10:10 am-12:10 pm	Retail Horticulture
1145	11:10 am-12 pm	11:10 am-12 pm	11:10 am-12 pm	Borlaug Greenhouse	11:10 am -12 pm
	RELLIS Ag Workforce	RELLIS Ag Workforce	RELLIS Campus	Room 1101	RELLIS Campus
	Room 1101	Room 1101	Ag Workforce		Ag Workforce
1200			Room 1101		Room 1101
1215	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
100	Hort 101 or 104	Hort 103	Hort 101 or 104		
115	Hort Principles or	Floral	Hort Principles or		
130	Plant Production	Design	Plant Production		
145	1:00-2:15pm	Lab	1:00-2:15pm		
200	RELLIS Campus Ag workforce	1-4pm	RELLIS Campus Ag workforce	BVCIL: Study Skills/Math class	
215	Room 1101	RELLIS campus	Room 1101	2:00-3:30pm	
230		Ag Workforce			
345		Floral Lab			
400				Optional BVCIL class	
415				Public Events	
430				4:00-5:00 pm	





Career Exploration



- Course instructors share industry experience.
- Guest speakers (industry professionals).
- University student organization involvement and volunteer to build social networks.



Practicum – Min. 135hrs (Based on career field/track)

- Floral Design
- Landscape Management
- Greenhouse/Nursery Production

Industry-recognized credential test training



Wraparound Support

- *One-on-one tutoring*
Weekly tutoring session to assist students in meeting expectations for courses.
- *One-on-one wraparound meeting*
Entering & Exit wraparound meeting to support students.
- *Accommodations*
Extra time for testing, class recording, notes, vocabulary list, step-by-step guidelines, etc.
- *Resume QR code element*
Video slips of students at site showing various competencies.





Residential

- On-campus housing and meals included in the summer WACO program.
- HOPS program off-campus housing
 - < 50 miles radius of Bryan/College Station Area
 - > 50 miles radius of Bryan/College Station Area



Partners

BRAZOS VALLEY CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (BVCIL)



- Job matching & skills training (WACO)
- Transportation (WACO)
- Time tracking & payroll (WACO)
- Job coaching & accommodations (WACO)
- Study skills class (HOPS)
- Driver Ed (HOPS)
- Individual Case Management (HOPS)
- SSI benefits training (HOPS)
- Employment application assistant (HOPS)

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY (TAMU) TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION & CENTER ON DISABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
Center on Disability
& Development

- College courses (TAMU & BLINN)
- Mentors
- Evening activities

TWC VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES (VR)



- Bridge between both work & college
- Potential funding support for program participant (need to work with VR counselor to secure funding)

Application

- Participants must be 18 years of age by the start of the summer WACO program (June 2024).
- Participant must be their own guardian.
- Application opens in Oct/Nov, and complete applications must be submitted and received by the end of February 2024.
- Find program information and application on Texas A&M University *Center on Disability and Development* website.

WACO: <https://cdd.tamu.edu/education/waco-project/>

HOPS: <https://cdd.tamu.edu/education/hops-program/>



Service and Outreach



Camp LIFE

Leadership, Independence, and Friends through Experiences

- A unique and inclusive camping adventure for children with any disability (ages 6 & up) and their siblings.
- Held twice a year at the barrier-free facilities of Camp For All in Burton, Texas, Camp LIFE provides recreation while offering a weekend of respite for their parents.
- Camp LIFE gives campers the choice to participate in every activity they would see at any other traditional camp. Campers can experience horseback riding, fishing, archery, the zip line, and rope course activities, as well as a petting zoo, canoeing, dancing, and even karaoke.
- Usually 1:1 camper/counselor ratio
- Camp Nurse on site for medications



Camp Dates & Rates

Weekend Camps

- Fall Camp October 20-22, 2023
- Spring Camp February 9-11, 2024

Rates

- **Tier I** (\$275) is a partially subsidized fee for those who can pay a little but still cannot afford the entire cost of the camp.
- **Tier II** (\$375) most closely accounts for the true costs of the camp. The camp fees are per person.

Family Day Camp

- April 7, 2024
- MBA Association provides funding

Rates

- \$50-\$100 per family



Purposeful Life

- Free workshop series for parents and family members of children with disabilities.
- In person in College Station, or online via Facebook Live. Register online.
- Begins in September and ends in May. Sessions are held on the first Thursday of the month (we skip January.)

Next Session: October 5, 2023

Equal Power Because It's the Right Thing to Do!

In this session, Ty and Aimee will share how they have used person-centered planning and trauma-informed care to help Ty grow into a strong self-advocate. When Ty leads his ARD meetings, he makes informed choices and has positive control over his goals and the support needed to help him reach his vision of a good life.

Speakers: Ty Day and Aimee Day



Coach to Communicate



- Multimodal Communication webinar gives parents tools to help their child with autism spectrum disorder improve their communication skills.
- After viewing the webinar and completing the post-assessment, parents who are interested in learning how to apply the webinar concepts to their own situation through online, individualized parent training sessions are invited to read and fill out the information and consent form.
- Training available in English and Spanish

For More Information

- Email Aimee Ortiz-Day at aday@tamu.edu
- Visit our website <https://cdd.tamu.edu/>
- Like us on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/TAMUCDD/>
- Sign up for our [newsletter](#)

