

PATH TO OPPORTUNITY

Through school, work, community and family connections, Project CONNECT will allow each youth to achieve goals that they design and to demonstrate what they have achieved in multiple settings. Youth will leave the program with a portfolio of accomplishments. Providing this “team approach” of services will allow each youth to experience the opportunity to learn the value of meaningful work and to connect learning to their job.

Little Sprouts will utilize a Positive Youth Development approach in conjunction with Workforce Development and Education Attainment activities. A youth that successfully “graduates” from our program can expect to achieve some or all the following outcomes:

- Develop a Youth Development Plan.
- Participation in career interest inventories.
- Develop short term and long term goals.
- Workforce Development (interviewing, filling out applications, resumes, job questionnaire, attend job shadows).
- Complete a Work Based Learning Plan.
- Establish one positive adult relationship.
- Participate in family visits at least once per week.
- Establish at least one community support connection.
- Obtain a GED and/or improve Basic Academic Skills.
- Learn to demonstrate effective leadership.
- Demonstrate proper behavior.
- Learn to communicate effectively.
- Obtain employment.

PROGRAM STAFF

Staffing for the Project CONNECT program consists of a Youth Advocate, Teacher, and a Director. The staffing pattern consists of a ratio of 5-7 youth per Youth Advocate. The Youth Advocate is responsible for the day to day interactions with youth, parents, and referral sources. The Teacher will be responsible for developing and administering the ABE/GED program.

To find out more, please contact Jim Carlson at 1.877.YSPROUT (1.877.977.7688) or email: inquiries@littlesprouts.com.



A New Era in Education

COMMUNITY BASED LOCATIONS:

Riverwalk Bldg. One
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Cross Point Towers
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Project Connect



A New Era in Education



Little Sprouts' Project CONNECT seeks to serve youth and families involved in the Massachusetts Department of Social Services Family Networks integrated system of care. This program seeks to serve males and females ages 16-21 who have either "dropped out" of high school before receiving their high school diploma or received a high school diploma but are Basic Skills deficient in group or individual settings at our community based locations in Lawrence, Lowell, Haverhill, Methuen and Andover.

PROJECT CONNECT GOALS:

- To connect youth and their families to opportunities and supports in their communities.
- To have staff members connect with and build positive relationships with youth and their families through a Positive Youth Development approach.
- To connect youth emotionally with their families and/or child (ren).
- To support youth connectedness to constructive peers and adults.
- To connect learning to their job and career paths.

BUILDING INDEPENDENCE

Little Sprouts understands that before participants learn to take ownership of their own success, our staff may need to do everything from early morning check-ins to verify school or work attendance, to meeting times most convenient to families in order to fulfill the program's requirement of weekly family contact. The first ninety days of the program will offer participants access to our staff on an everyday basis so as to build rapport and increase participant's ability to grow in their independence. Upon participants taking greater ownership and responsibility for their own learning, the program anticipates being able to reduce our level of contact and support with each youth and family.



ACTIVITIES AND SUPPORTS TO ACHIEVE POSITIVE OUTCOMES:

- Daily Contact with Each Youth
- Adult Basic Education/GED Instruction
- Family Involvement
- Career Exploration/Identification of Strengths/Interest/Skills
- Connection to Positive Adult Role Models
- Community Collaboration
- Advocacy
- Independent Living Skills
- Leadership Development
- Graduation

FORMULA FOR SUCCESS

Why will we be successful? Our participants know from the first day we are there for them. For us, the rapport that our staff works so hard to build with youth has been the most critical factor in ensuring that they come back day after day. Most adolescents may be able to acquire an entry-level service industry job, but it takes a certain level of comfort and trust in the staff who works with them for these same youth to begin to explore what comes after. As youth involved with state agencies, our participants may come to us merely with the hope of satisfying a judge, social worker or probation officer, but they will not have left successfully until they realize the most important person they need to satisfy is themselves.

