

# Positive and Possible +

Mythbusting Quiz

Young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) are willing and capable of working.

Take our quiz and uncover the truth about supporting people with SEND reach their career goals.

	TRUE	FALSE	DON'T KNOW
<b>1</b> The vast majority of young people with special educational needs are capable of sustainable paid employment with the right preparation and support.			
<b>2</b> Most young people with special educational needs and disabilities don't want to work.			
<b>3</b> Year 9 or earlier is the best time to start planning for learning, training or work when young people leave school.			
<b>4</b> Young people with special educational needs must be 'work ready' before they start to apply for jobs.			
<b>5</b> Employment puts benefits at risk and makes people poorer.			
<b>6</b> Young people with special educational needs and disabilities cannot leave school/college to find employment until their 18th birthday.			
<b>7</b> Being in work is good for your health.			
<b>8</b> Businesses want to employ people with disabilities.			
<b>9</b> Disabled people take less time off work than average.			
<b>10</b> If a young person can't achieve GCSE in Maths and English they can't do an apprenticeship.			

**Statement 1 is true:** the SEND Code of Practice makes it clear that all professionals working with young people with SEND should start with a presumption of employability. This prevents missing out on important preparation for adulthood.

**Statement 2 is false:** this may have been the case in the past but was most likely because nobody asked them. Young people with special educational needs and disabilities have the same dreams and aspirations about a career as young people in general but working needs to be part of their conversations as early as possible.

**Statement 3 is true:** the SEND Code of Practice says it is important that young people start to think about their work aspirations as early as possible and that from year 9 at the latest, there is help to start planning for a successful transition to adulthood. This includes moving into paid employment and higher education.

**Statement 4 is false:** work preparation is valuable but it can be difficult to be completely ready for work. Many people start the real learning once they're in the workplace where people with SEND will benefit from extra support.

**Statement 5 is false:** it is important to have contact with your local Job Centre Plus for individual benefits advice in relation to employment. Earning a small weekly wage or earning money for a fixed period may not affect benefits and is a good way to ease into employment.

**Statement 6 is false:** a 16 year old can spend 20 hours or more a week working or volunteering, if this is combined with training. The training is required until they are 18.

**Statement 7 is true:** according to the Government's Work, Health and Disability Green Paper 'Improving Lives', the evidence is clear that work and health are linked. Appropriate work is good for an individual's physical and mental health. Being out of work is associated with a range of poor health outcomes.

**Statement 8 is true:** employers do want to employ people with disabilities when they are made aware of the benefits and are supported with any concerns they may have. Businesses have reported that employees with disabilities have a positive impact on the workforce as a whole. For more information visit [www.base-uk.org](http://www.base-uk.org)

**Statement 9 is true:** research carried out by Cardiff University on behalf of Mencap concluded that disabled people remain in post longer, have lower absenteeism and good punctuality.

**Statement 10 is false:** the Government has lowered the English and Maths requirements needed to complete an apprenticeship for people with a learning difficulty or disability and have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). Access to Work funding is also available for Supported Apprenticeships or Internships.