

# Developing a Vision Statement

**High achievement always takes place in the framework of high expectations. (*Charles Kettering*)**

**A lack of optimism generally translates into a lack of expectation and opportunity that becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy. (*Paula Kluth*)**

What do you want for your young child? What is the long-term vision? What do you dare to dream?

Developing a vision statement can answer these questions. A vision statement is about what you want to be. As a parent, you know your child best. But think about who you hope your child will be. What would you like him/her to be able to do? What do you think about your child living independently? What are you most afraid of? What will your child do after high school ends? Do you want your child to participate in community events? Do you expect your child to be employed? Consider how your dream differs for your child with a disability than for a child without a disability.

It is part of parenting to think about the future. A vision statement is your dream for the future of your child with a disability. It is also a statement of your values. It should be short and to the point. Think about who your child is and what you hope your child to be. Remember where you started and look at the successes your child/family has already had. Believe that there is more to come. Write down what you hope will be.

Your vision statement can be another powerful communication tool. It should paint a clear, bright picture of the future you dream of for your child. Your vision statement sets your expectations for everyone who works with your child.

Sample:

Our dream is for Maddie to become as independent as possible, to be social and have friends, contribute to society, to be an accepted member of the community, and to be happy and safe.



Your vision statement doesn't predict the future – it creates it.

Questions to consider when writing a vision statement:

- What would you like him/her to be able to do?
- What are you most afraid of?
- What will your child do after school ends? Where will they live?
- What are your expectations for employment and being part of the community?

**The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams. (*Eleanor Roosevelt*)**