

## Purpose

The Purpose of Project SEARCH Zoo Miami is to provide vocational training and employability skill acquisition in a workplace setting to facilitate the transition process through continuous feedback and application of new skills. The project targets students whose main goal is employment, and who will benefit from full time career exploration in a business setting. Project SEARCH is implemented through a partnership with support and resources from Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), Miami-Dade Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces Dept., Vocational Rehabilitation, and agencies providing job coaching and job development services. Through this program, students will not only develop the tools necessary for employment, but will also develop skills needed for self determination, self management and self advocacy.



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## Work Experience Transition Program for Students with Disabilities



FLORIDA  
DEVELOPMENTAL  
DISABILITIES  
COUNCIL, INC.

## What is Project SEARCH

Project SEARCH Zoo Miami is a unique business-led transition program designed for students with disabilities pursuing a Special Diploma or accessing modified curriculum. It is targeted for students whose main goal is employment and will benefit from career exploration. The cornerstone of the one school-year program is immersion into the inner workings of Zoo Miami. Individualized job development and placement occurs based on the student's experiences, strengths, and skills with the assistance of a job coach provided by Best Buddies International. Students are given support with accommodations, adaptations and on-the-job coaching. Elective credits can be awarded for successful completion of Project SEARCH Zoo Miami. The program is located at:

Zoo Miami  
12400 SW 152nd St.  
Miami, FL 33177

### Eligibility Criteria

Students must:

Desire to work competitively in the community at the end of the program

Be 18-21 years of age

Have completed high school credits necessary for graduation

Meet eligibility requirements for Florida Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)

Have independent hygiene and grooming skills

Maintain appropriate work behaviors and social skills in the workplace

Be able to access public transportation (travel training provided by program)

Be able to take redirection from Project SEARCH and Zoo Miami staff

Be able to communicate effectively

## Possible Worksite Experiences

- Clerical Support
- Concessions
  - Bike Rental
  - Food Concession Stand
  - Catering
- Dietary
- Children's Zoo
- Aviary
- Horticulture
- Electrical/Plumbing/Masonry/Painting
- Landscaping and Maintenance
- Visitor Services
  - Ticket Booth
- Gift Shop
- Veterinary Services



## PROJECT SEARCH

For more information please contact the  
Division of Exceptional Student Education  
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For TTY assistance, please access Telecommunications Device  
for the Deaf (TTY) at (305) 995-2530

## Program Goals

- ⇒ To provide a smooth transition from high school to work that allows for on-the-job training.
- ⇒ To allow students to learn employability and job skills while participating in a variety of administrative worksite rotations which leads to competitive employment.
- ⇒ To provide a learning environment that allows students who are 18-22 years of age to learn and grow socially among their peers.
- ⇒ To provide students with the needed support for job seeking and job development that will assist in successful job placement
- ⇒ To assist students in working toward independence in many areas such as transportation, daily living skills, adult thinking processes, teamwork and social relationships.

