



*Tala from Sprouts
mentoring Richard*

South San Francisco Unified School District

SHOUT OUT FOR SPROUTS!

On the first day of school, Richard Zecena was determined and focused on his transition goals. Richard participated in the WorkAbility I Program where he gained experience at different job sites such as Old Navy, Staples, and Petco.

Last December, Richard began working at Sprouts Farmers Market where his enthusiasm and professionalism on the job made it easy for the store manager to notice him. He started to help by collecting shopping carts and maintaining store shelves by cleaning and facing products. He learned the duties so quickly that he was recommended for courtesy clerk training. The manager enthusiastically offered Richard a spot as a team member at their store. Richard will be working as a courtesy clerk at Sprouts Farmers Market in Daly City.

Richard is very happy and pleased with his accomplishment. He hopes to become a full-time employee and use this as a stepping stone opportunity to a management position. When asked what he has learned throughout his WorkAbility I experiences, Richard says, "My success on the job is to be on time every day, wear nice and clean clothes, be friendly and make an effort to get along with your coworkers and supervisors!"

Tuolumne County SELPA



Corynne and owner, Julia

BRIDES AND BALLOONS, WHAT A BLAST!

Corynne Bashaw has been a model student at Sonora Union High School for nearly four years. Her kind spirit and compassion for others has served her well in both the arts and nursing classes. Corynne has a keen sense of beauty and is very organized! When offered an opportunity to work through the WorkAbility I Program at Sierra Bridal and Balloons, Corynne jumped into action preparing her necessary paperwork and practicing for her interview.

Corynne began with learning the stock, arranging clothing, and even creating window displays. She has proven to be very skilled with the computer and earned her way to working the desk. Her favorite part of the job is "assisting customers to find just the right look and fit for the occasion."

During the holidays, Corynne attended a Santa party put on by local merchants. She was able to photograph the children with Santa, using her photography skills. Her warm heart and loving demeanor gave even the shyest child a chance to enjoy the festivities and leave with a great photo of their day.

With a recent addition of "Itty Bitty Balloons" to the Sierra Bridal and Party Shop, Corynne is having a blast expanding on new opportunities to decorate and enhance every rental occasion. While Corynne prepares for graduation and her future with the nearby Columbia College nursing program, owner, Julia assures her there will be a place for her at Sierra Bridal and Balloons.

Whittier Union High School District

A NATURAL GARDENER



Fernando hard at work!

As a student in the WorkAbility I Program, Fernando Guzman started his work training at Whittier Narrows Equestrian Center (WNEC) without any type of previous paid work experience. He acquired many skills associated with the gardening profession--weeding, digging holes, planting, and plant care. Even though he hadn't performed any of these tasks before, he learned very quickly. The work seemed to come naturally to him. He was very good at following instructions and not afraid to work hard or get dirty. He demonstrated leadership skills by assisting other students in properly performing their job tasks. Fernando felt a great sense of importance when he was given responsibility for driving the tool cart. He enjoyed his time at WNEC so much that he would go in on days he wasn't scheduled, just to help out. As a student in the WorkAbility I program at WNEC, Fernando showed his ability to learn quickly, teach others, take initiative, and be a responsible employee.

According to the Director of WNEC, Linda Fulton, she enjoys giving students in the WorkAbility I program the experience in further developing their skills. Linda has been very generous in providing many of the tools and equipment needed for the students to perform their duties, including a shed for tool and equipment storage.