

7 Reasons to Become a Direct Support Professional

1. Flexible Schedule

In many cases, you can work as much or as little as you wish, with lots of flexibility in shift scheduling: morning, daytime, evening, overnight, every other weekend. Being a DSP is a great option for students, parents, or other people who need flexible hours.

2. Every Day is Different

When you are a DSP, no two days are the same - not to mention, full of fun activities and a wide variety of environments! You get to take individuals on recreational outings (like bowling, shopping, the movies, amusement parks, fairs, etc.), transport them to their programs/activities, and hang out with them at home or out in the community.

3. Casual Work Environment

No special wardrobe is required to be a DSP - in fact, casual attire like jeans and sneakers is best.

4. No College Degree Required

No college degree is required to become a DSP. Most employers will only require applicants to have a high school diploma or equivalent (such as a GED). Some people opt to get certified by the National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals, although it may not be required for many jobs.

5. Gain Skills and Training

DSPs receive training (usually paid) in areas such as first aid, CPR, medication administration, and more. You can also gain many on-the-job skills that can help with career advancement, as well as life skills.

6. Industry Demand

There is a national shortage of DSPs and the demand will only continue to grow, which means there are many job openings available.

7. Make a Real Difference

Most of all, you will make an impact on others' lives. You will make connections that last a lifetime and help individuals reach their goals and milestones.

