

# What is a Direct Support Professional?



**Direct Support Professionals**, also known as DSPs, are people who work directly with individuals with disabilities. They assist these individuals with a wide range of tasks, with the goal of helping them become a larger part of the community. A DSP may provide support to a person with a disability at home, work, school, church, and in other community places.

## Job Duties:

- Help people to develop social skills and build relationships with others
- Help with daily activities like personal care, housekeeping, cooking, money management, etc.
- Provide supervision and guidance during skill-building activities
- Transport and accompany individuals to doctor's appointments, social activities, shopping trips, etc.
- Build safe and supportive relationships with individuals

## Job Outlook:

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that employment opportunities for home health and personal care aides will grow 33% until 2030, which is much faster than the average for all occupations.

Nearly 600,000 job openings are projected each year over the next decade.

## Job Requirements:

Being a DSP also requires certain characteristics like being patient, caring, composed under pressure, dependable, and possessing strong interpersonal skills.

Most employers require applicants to have a high school diploma or equivalent (such as a GED). Direct Support Professionals should also be certified in First Aid and CPR, or may hold a certificate from the National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals (NADSP).