# 1. Introduction

Hello! Welcome to the Ticket to Work guide for students with disabilities. I am Jack Anderson and I am excited to talk to you about what you can do at school to help with your career. I got involved in Ticket to work while I was at Berendale School.

What is this Ticket to Work?

Well, Ticket to Work supports young people with a disability into meaningful employment. They do this by bringing different people in the community together, including school teachers, employment consultants, workers and employers. So, there is heaps of support!

They helped me to work out what I liked, and I got lots of experience of different jobs while I was at school. I am currently working as a gardener and as an actor.

For me, I started discovering that gardening and acting were my interests while I was still at school. So, while you are still at school, it’s a great idea to start exploring different options and experience different work places and ask plenty of questions. This will help you to make decisions about what you like to do. Find your strengths, the kind of things you may want to do when you leave school.

This may be scary to think about. You might be unsure of what you can do when you leave school. That’s okay. Learning is part of being a student and the more you learn and try new things, the easier it will become. 

I loved drama class at school, acting made me very happy. This is why I am talking to you, as this is one of my jobs! I am using the skills I learned through acting classes to make this video. I have also done great acting jobs including concerts for children, lead roles in short films as-well as being an extra in TV shows like Neighbours and True Story.   
  
I also got the opportunity at school to do gardening and found out I loved working outdoors. I completed a School based Traineeship in horticulture while I was still at school. It was good to know that I could do lots of different things when I left school.

Ticket to Work found that students that had a great career development and experienced work while at school were three time likely to be a job when they finished. They were more likely to go on to further study, and be happy with their independence. I found work can be fun and rewarding and a good place to make friends. It also means you get to spend money on things that make you happy. That could be holidays, music or even a big goal like a car or a house.  I like to spend my money on tools, food, video games and eBay items.

This research also showed me that more experiences you have while you are at school, you were much more likely to find a job when you finish. When I was at school, I completed lots of work experience at Video Ezy, RMIT, and La Mama Theatre.

There are lots of benefits for students with a disability to have these experience while still at school. They include

* showing employers what tasks they are really good at;
* building skills and a positive work attitudes;
* building resumés and connecting with employers.

It also helps work out what you don’t like.

Let’s look at some of things that you can do while you’re at school to find out what you like to do.   
  
Also, learn more about find new places that can support you. They will help you to build some great skills and explore different types of opportunities.