

Family Support for Children with Disabilities (FSCD)

Your Vision

Understanding your vision

Part of the FSCD [assessment of needs](#) process includes asking about your vision for your child and your family. This can be a challenging question for any parent to answer. What does it mean to have a good life? How do we help our children get there? How do WE get there?

Your worker will want to understand your goals and the direction you want to take so that planning and support can best meet your needs.

There are resources to help

“Regardless of your child’s disability, developing a clear vision for your son or daughter’s future is fundamental to their later success in life. A vision for your child is developed and refined over time as you gain knowledge and understanding of your child and his or her disability. Your vision is a reflection of your understanding of your child and his or her place in the world.”

“You do not need to know how this might be accomplished, simply know in your heart this is what you want for your child.”

This quote is from the Welcome to the Family resource booklet. It was written by parents for parents and supports the benefit of knowing what you want or where you’re heading.

Your vision can include the next month, the next year, or further into the future. Start with whatever you’re comfortable with and know that it can and will change over time.



Resourcing Families

Australia’s Resourcing Families website (<https://www.ric.org.au/>) describes your vision as acting like a compass, helping you make a plan and stick to it, helping to shape your decisions and make a good life “far more likely.” For more about the value and importance of vision visit their website and watch the “Clarity of vision” ([youtube.com/watch?v=T5jplnSQfVo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T5jplnSQfVo)) video.

As speaker Wendy Stroeve talks about her experiences with her now adult son, “It means having a very clear idea and some positive dreams about what we want for somebody’s life.” She mentions that “good quality of life for people with

disabilities doesn't just happen by accident." You have people around you who can help you and your loved ones create the life you want. Having a compass to guide you – your vision – will ensure that those people know how to help you get there.



Transition to Adulthood

Having a vision and working towards your goals becomes very helpful as you start supporting your young person with the transition to adulthood. Where do they want to live? How do they want to spend their time? Where do they want to work? Are we on track to help make these things happen? These are all questions that your worker and support team will explore with you and your son or daughter.

If expressing your vision is challenging, or if you want to spend some time with your son or daughter exploring their goals for the future, there are resources that can help.

Alberta Learning Information Service (ALIS)

The following workbooks are resources developed by Government of Alberta for youth and their families to explore the directions they may want to take after high school. The tools in the workbooks are general enough to be used at any stage to look at building the kind of life you want.

- alis.alberta.ca/tools-and-resources/order-publications/
- alis.alberta.ca/tools-and-resources/content/products/my-choices-my-work-my-life/

These resources can be found through the Alberta Learning Information Service (ALIS) (alis.alberta.ca/careerinsite).

This Government of Alberta website has information and access to resources and tools available to everyone that take you through identifying values and interests, and provides ways to capture your results.

