Rationale

- Children with epilepsy have lower levels of academic achievement than children with other chronic conditions (Austin et al 1998).

- Long term study of children with epilepsy in Finland found this group had fewer years in formal education and higher unemployment rates than average (Sillanpaa et al, 1998)

- Unemployment and underemployment are more common for people with epilepsy. (Chaplin and Fraser, 2001)
Background of the development of the course

- Brainwave involved in pre employment training since 1993.
- Planning My Future Dublin.
- 1998 Training for Success established in Sligo.
Location

- Institute of Technology Sligo.
- Modern Third Level College with 5,000 students
- Mainstream focus is beneficial
- Opportunity to mix and socialise with other students doing different courses.
- Informal as well as formal learning.
- Positive attitude towards epilepsy.
Participant Profile

- People with epilepsy

- Typically in the 18 to 30 age group though no upper age bracket exists.

- Are recruited nationally, students come from a wide geographic spread representing all counties in the republic.

- Occasionally from abroad.

- Are fully registered students of the Institute.

- Are registered with FAS (Funding agency).
Demographics

- 154 people have participated in the course

- 65% Male
- 35% Female
- Youngest 17
- Oldest 45
- Mean = 26
Aims and Objectives (contd.)

- To support students to identify their own personal goals and plan to achieve them.

- To improve self confidence and self esteem.

- To develop independence, personal responsibility and self directed learning.

- To ameliorate the negative impact epilepsy may have on education and employment opportunities.

- To develop a realist attainable career focus.
Aims and Objectives

- To impart the necessary skills and attitudes in order that people with epilepsy may make a successful transition from dependency to adult independence and full integration into; full or part time employment, sheltered/supported employment, further vocational training, return to education, community/voluntary work.

- To educate participants about epilepsy and develop good self management skills thereby ensuring restrictions imposed by the condition are limited.

- To support students to identify their own personal goals and plan to achieve them.
Modules

- Induction
- Creative writing
- Epilepsy awareness
- Career planning
- Computer Skills
- Communications.
- Spanish
- Mathematics
- Health and fitness
- Work experience

- First Aid
- Drama
- Art
- Humanities
Motivation
Keep down stress levels

“Another stressful day at the office dear?”
Stress levels
PERSON CENTERED PLANNING

- An Individual fitness plan is worked out for each student at the beginning of the year.

- Individual Education/Training plans are developed and modified throughout the year.
Training for Success Duration

- 12 months
- Five days per week
- Full timetable for 30 hours per week
- Eight weeks work placement
Outcomes after year on Programme

- *Increased knowledge of careers options including courses*: 89%
- *Improved ability to speak about epilepsy to employers or others*: 100%
- *Improved ability to cope with epilepsy*: 89%
- *Gained better understanding of epilepsy*: 100%
- *Increased self confidence*: 89%
Training for Success student progression 1998 to 2010

- Higher Education
- Further Education
- Employment
- Unemployed
- Further Training
- Did not Finish Course
- Don't Know
References


References continued


Discussion Topics

- Are courses like Training for Success necessary?

- What are the advantages of participating in a course like Training for Success
Discussion Topic 2

- Should similar courses be developed in other countries for people with epilepsy?

- How might they be funded?