Transition-to-Work Program

Yes She Can Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping young women with autism spectrum disorders and related social and learning disabilities develop transferrable work skills to enable them to join the workforce and achieve their potential.

**Intensive job skills program:** Our participants learn best in a hands-on authentic business environment with coaching and practice of skills needed in any workplace. Participants are taught and supported by professional job coaches and business managers.

**A real business.** We operate Girl AGain, a resale boutique for American Girl dolls, located in downtown White Plains.

Trainees learn and participate in every aspect of running the business with focus on performing job tasks, learning business processes, as well as developing workplace social skills, emotional regulation and self-advocacy.
Transition to Employment

Students with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and related social and learning disabilities have unique challenges that hinder their participation in the workforce. Conventional internships are not designed to provide the teaching methods and coaching as well as the social and emotional support they need to gain skills necessary to function in a job. Yes She Can offers an individualized training program specifically designed for individuals with ASD and related disabilities to prepare them for employment and increased independence. The program is delivered by business managers, psychologists, social workers and teachers at Girl AGain, a resale boutique for American Girl dolls in White Plains, NY.

Program description

- Immersive experience lead by business and clinical professionals supporting trainees in direct involvement in store operations. Trainee attends 3-hour work periods; 2-3 days per week. Sessions are 16 weeks. Most trainees enroll for 3-6 sessions.
- Direct training in business processes: research and information analysis, data entry, written communication, customer interactions, peer collaboration, employee-manager relations, etc.
- Focus on executive functioning, problem-solving, decision-making, judgement, flexibility and adaptability to change, taking initiative, being accountable and responsible.
- Coaching workplace social skills and behaviors, emotional regulation, self-advocacy and independence.
- Comprehensive assessment pre and post training sessions; individualized continuous feedback.

Expected outcomes

- Obtain substantial and meaningful experience in an authentic work environment
- Achieve competency in a variety of job skills needed in competitive employment
- Increase in workplace social skills and communication skills needed in a job
- Develop ability to self-advocate and articulate her own support needs on the job

Program sessions and location

- Meets criteria for OPWDD Self-Direction Transition Class and is reimbursable
- Location: Girl AGain boutique, 4 Martine Ave. White Plains, NY 10606

Intake and enrollment

- Completion of application including relevant educational records and evaluations
- Call with school program administrator or service agency
- Personal interview
- Sign Memorandum of Understanding

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Yes She Can is a 501c3 nonprofit organization founded in 2013 by Marjorie Madfis, a business professional and mother of a young woman with ASD. Learn more at YesSheCanInc.org

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