

## **Chris's Story**

Chris is 20 years old. He was referred to Northamptonshire County Council's Employment and Disability Service (EADS) on the Work Prep programme on the 23rd October 2007.

His learning disability means that he finds reading difficult. He needs to be shown tasks one at a time and then put them together.

Before Chris was referred to EADS he had had a part time job at McDonalds. He was bullied because of his learning difficulties. He lost all of his confidence and wanted to hide himself away.

Chris lives with his very elderly grandparents, who are retired and living on their pensions. It was important that Chris got a job, not only to bring money into the family but also to live a more independent life and become socially and economically included in the community.

## **What Happened**

Finding Chris a work placement on the Work Prep programme was difficult as he lives in a rural area and cannot drive. We also needed to find an employer who would be patient enough to help Chris learn new tasks.

After spending lots of time building Chris's confidence his Employment Development Officer Pauline Simpson found him a placement at a Morrisons food warehouse in Thrapston.

His employer at Morrisons in Thrapston was so impressed with Chris that they employed him through the Workstep programme and he has been going from strength to strength ever since.

Chris is well liked, reliable and a valued member of the team. He has a wide variety of responsibilities and keeps up with his colleagues on the production line. He is able to walk to work, which has improved his fitness.

Chris's Grandparents say that thanks to EADS, Chris is a new person. He can hold his head up high, contribute money to the household and has become much more sociable and happy within himself.