

## **James's Story**

James had been going to City College Norwich for four years. He had done lots of different courses at the School of Foundation Studies. James has cerebral palsy and uses a wheelchair. He used Education Transport funding to go to his courses. James had no work experience before starting Project SEARCH.

James decided he would like to find a job and become more independent, so he joined Project SEARCH. He did the first term at City College, where he gained job skills, learnt about hospital work and earned a Basic Food Hygiene Certificate. James also took Remploy's Core Skills Assessment. This showed that while he took great care to make sure he did everything right he found some tasks hard and had problems with his hand to eye co-ordination.

James' first work placement was in an office. He also worked on reception. James found this very hard. He had problems organising his workload and found paperwork confusing. James found Job Coaching helpful and by the end of the work placement was able to work on his own. During this placement an occupational therapist looked at any changes that could be made to the office so that James' access needs would not stop him from working.

James' second work placement was another office role, this time based in a staff bank. Using the skills he learnt during his first work placement James was able to organise his workload much

more easily. This gave James time to learn new skills. He learnt how to work with a database on a computer, write letters and make information packs. He liked the teamwork in the office. James' manager was really pleased with how the placement had gone. At the end of the course James was asked to apply for a job in the office.

As a result of the work placement James has now been offered a sixteen hour part time job working in the staff bank. To help him become more independent Remploy are giving James travel training so that he can use the local bus service. Remploy and Workstep will keep helping James at work.

James did not miss one Project SEARCH session for the entire course and was always willing and eager to learn.