

What to do and when to do it, here are some activities to do by age.

15-16	<p>Apply for a Washington State I.D. card. (before 18 is easier) Located at 4180 Cor-date Pkwy Ste. A, Bellingham, WA (360) 676-2096</p> <p>WHY: A photo ID will be needed to apply for many adult services.</p>	
16	<p>Apply with Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) WHY: Case management, family support and other services to help your son or daughter maximize their independence. Long term supports for employment after age 21. Applying early helps ensure funding availability. 360-714-5000</p>	
17-17 ½	<p>Consider if guardianship is necessary and determine type of guardianship.</p> <p>WHY: At age 18 your son/daughter becomes a legal adult and may need support making legal, medical and vocational decisions. Consider alternatives to full guardianship. Contact the Arc, 715-0170 for resources and planning guides.</p>	<p align="center">GUARDIANSHIP and alternatives</p>
17-19	<p>Apply for low income Housing at the Housing Authority</p> <p>WHY: The wait list for housing can be long, so it's important to apply early. (360) 676-6887. Learn about housing choice vouchers and project based housing.</p>	
18	<p>If your child does not receive Social Security Benefits—apply now!</p> <p>WHY: He or she is now an adult and parent's income is not counted. He/she may be eligible for cash and medical benefits. There are many provisions available, called WORK INCENTIVES, that allow people with disabilities to keep benefits, including Medicare/Medicaid, while working.. He or she needs to pay rent to the family in order to maximize SS benefits.</p>	
18	<p>Ask your DDA case manager about Personal Care funding.</p> <p>If your son or daughter needs help with bathing, grooming, dressing, laundry, etc. funding may be available for Personal Care. Support can be provided by either family members or a contracted provider. Contact your DDA case manager and ask about the "Community First Choice" (CFC) Program 360-714-5000. Apply now to see how this and other services may benefit your family.</p>	<p align="center">Personal Care</p>
Senior year	<p>Fill out the Free Application for the Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)</p> <p>WHY: If seeking aid to attend college, this form must be filled out by March 1 of Senior year for best consideration. www.fafsa.ed.gov</p>	
18-21	<p>Apply for services with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)</p> <p>WHY: This agency helps people with disabilities get and keep a job, and understand how working affects benefits. 360-812-6610</p>	
19-20	<p>Apply to the Job Foundations Program</p> <p>WHY: Connects students their second to last year of school with adult vocational agencies to ensure an effective transition to work and adult life. Must be DDA eligible. Talk with your teacher or DDA case manager.</p>	
Anytime	<p>Apply for job search assistance with WorkSource Youth Services</p> <p>WHY: This is a local program that can help self-directed job seekers find part time and/or summer employment to help develop work skills.</p>	
Anytime	<p>Whatcom Transportation Authority and Paratransit services</p> <p>WHY: Learning to ride the bus helps your son or daughter to be more independent. They offer flexible alternative public transportation for people with disabilities. Ask about travel training and reduced fares. 360-676-7433</p>	
Anytime	<p>Connect with the Arc of Whatcom County</p> <p>WHY: Assistance in helping navigate system, connects with resources, and provides support to parents by other parents of individuals with disabilities. 360-715-0170.</p>	