

What is the New Frontier Program

Birch provides young adults on the spectrum with vocational preparation, job acquisition, and ongoing employer and employee support so that they can thrive in their positions. Our expert staff helps participants develop the skills needed to communicate appropriately, understand group social dynamics, and manage stress and anxiety in the workplace. Utilizing our network of corporate and community partners, we help individuals obtain volunteer work experience to gain the skills needed for permanent employment, paid internships to enhance their talents and improve their resumes, and permanent competitive employment in commiserate with their abilities and interests. Our participants have been placed at the following organizations: Goldman Sachs, PricewaterhouseCoopers, ITG, The Museum of Natural History, The Modern, REI, The New York Transit Museum, the Jewish Community Center in Manhattan, and Sean Casey Animal Rescue.

- Helping individuals on the Autism Spectrum obtain and maintain meaningful employment in their area of interest.
- One on one meetings with employment staff in preparation for obtaining employment
- Group sessions to build on social skills as well as job readiness

About Birch Family Services

Birch Family Services (Birch) began in 1975 as a school for children with special needs. Today, it has developed into a large network of programs serving people with developmental disabilities and their families. Birch's network includes: early childhood and school age programs, residential, day habilitation and family support services, social and transition programs for individuals moving from secondary school into their adult lives.

Much of Birch's strong positive reputation has been based on its work with people with autism and related disabilities.



New Frontier Employment Program

Administrative Office
104 West 29th Street, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10001
www.birchfamilyservices.org

Birch Family Services Employment Support

In 2012, Birch launched its New Frontier employment program. New Frontier works with individuals with high functioning autism/Asperger Syndrome, who have completed post-secondary education but have struggled to obtain and maintain employment. In 2013, New Frontier added support individuals who may or may not have completed post-secondary education and who may need on-going support once employed. In 2014, Birch became a vendor with **ACCES-VR**. Birch is also authorized to provide supported employment (SEMP)

For more information please contact:

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Phases of New Frontier Program

Discovery

Working with your Employment Coach, identifying strengths as well as developing a plan to obtain employment

Preparing to Obtain a Job

At this phase interview skills as well as resumes, cover letters and applications will be the focus

Obtaining Employment

With continued support from the Employment Coach whether it be onsite or offsite.

How to Apply for Services:

- In 2014, Birch became a vendor with **ACCES-VR** (Adult Career & Continuing ED Services)
- Birch is also authorized to provide supported employment (SEMP) and Pathways services through **OPWDD**
- To be referred to Birch you can visit the **ACCES-VR** website listed below to apply for services
- After receiving a VR counselor you can request a referral to **Birch Family Services**
- Birch also offers a 'Private Pay' option for those interested

<http://www.acces.nysed.gov/vr/apply-vocational-rehabilitation-services>

Job Development - Employers

- The New Frontier Program strives to develop long lasting relationships with employers while referring quality candidates
- The individuals we serve have a wide range of interests and abilities as well as experience and levels of education
- What are your needs as an employer? We will work with you to match the right candidate catered to your needs. Our New Frontier staff can also provide insight to working with individuals on the Autism Spectrum
- Although there is a great deal of information here, we have found it best to set-up a meeting in order to fully explain what our participants can offer

Financial Incentives for Employers:

To learn about financial incentives for hiring individuals with disabilities please visit:

<http://www.acces.nysed.gov/vr/acces-vr-your-no-cost-source-quality-staff>

**If you are interested in diversifying your company and working with the New Frontier Program feel free to contact Morgan Spatola, Employment Coordinator at (212) 616-1840 for inquiries or to set up a meeting in the future.*