

For William, being “On the Job” is a slam-dunk!  
Submitted by CATCH, Inc. Employment Service

William Franklin was referred to CATCH by his transition coordinator at Furness High School (editorial comment this service is no longer available in the Philadelphia School System – a real loss which creates a major seam in the school to work system). William’s dreams included girls and basketball, and not much else! William wasn’t drafted by the NBA nor did he get a college scholarship to play basketball following graduation. But William still had the other half of his dream – girls – and we all know they are expensive! William would need a real job to afford a girlfriend!

William had some prior work experience while in the high school transition program, stocking shelves and collecting shopping carts at ShopRite Supermarket, but William had his mind set on working at the airport because he heard the airport “pays good.” However, his chances of becoming a mechanic for US Air (like his friend’s uncle) weren’t much better than his chances of being drafted by the NBA!

Following the completion of William’s vocational assessment (we eliminated pro basketball player and airplane mechanic!) the results revealed that William was a people person, who had much experience talking with girls! The CATCH job developer focused on finding William a job that would enable him to utilize his social and verbal skills. Several months later William interviewed for a position as an usher at the Riverview Movie Theatre. He got the job due to his social interaction and verbal skills (we always thought ushers helped people to stay quiet during the movie!). After a few months of learning the position – in the dark no less – William became a floater for all of the theatres in the Riverview Complex. Not only has William mastered each of the positions for the various theatres, he also gets to watch movies about basketball – airplanes – and what else – girls!