

Greg's Story

This story is about:

- ★ Trying something new
- ★ Learning how to do a new job
- ★ Dealing with challenging parts of your job

My Job Washing Dishes at the Wayside Restaurant

A job coach at Montpelier High School received a fax from the owner of the Wayside Restaurant in Berlin, VT. He was asking if any students would be interested in the job. The job coach knew I was looking for a paying job, so he asked me if I was interested in washing dishes. Even though I had never done this type of work before, I told him I'd give it a try.

Since I don't drive I either get a ride from staff or I take the bus. Taking the bus was a new experience for me but it's easy now that I have the hang of it.



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What is Greg's job like?

When I get to the restaurant I go in the back door, walk downstairs and hang up my coat. Then I get a white t-shirt with a collar and buttons and an apron. Next I punch my number into the computer to start my four hour shift. Next I say to the cook, "Hey Randy make me French toast, home fries and sausage patties." I'm allowed to eat breakfast before I start my shift. Now I'm ready to start my job.

First I have to clean the dishwashing machine called a *Hobart*. There is a trap that catches food and silverware that must be emptied before every shift. Next I drain the machine, shut the doors and it automatically fills

with water. Before the silverware can be washed it has to go through the *sanitizer* which sterilizes it. Then ten minutes later, after the machine fills with water, I reassemble it.

Next I get the silverware baskets and send them up to the window. When the dishes,

glasses and silverware start coming in from the bussers and wait staff, there is food, napkins and all sorts of things on the plates. Sometimes during busy hours it seems like they're throwing dishes at me!

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I have to sort out what goes in the trash and what goes in the compost. My sorting skills have gotten so much better in the four months I have been working there. There are special names for some of the dishes such as *monkeys* and *platters*. *Monkeys* are little bowls. Randy sometimes yells, "I need some monkeys!"

Sometimes Randy helps me out at busy times. I also have a job coach who helps me out at busy times. I also have to scrub food out of pans that have been used for cooking before they go in the Hobart.

At the end of my shift I clean out the Hobart and get a free steam bath that helps my complexion! Then I declare my tips as "zero" because I don't get any, and put my number in the computer to end my shift.

When I work from 10:00 to 2:00 I feel like I'm at my second home. Everyone treats me with respect and they're friendly and joke around with me. I plan to keep this job for the summer.

Timeline:

- ✓ Found out about the job from his teacher
- ✓ Applied for the job
- ✓ Was offered the job
- ✓ Works from 10-2pm
- ✓ Plans to keep the job for the summer

What can we learn from Greg?

Had Greg ever done this type of work before?

How was Greg able to get to and from his job?

For you?

- ★ Would you consider doing a job you hadn't tried before?

How do you think Greg learned how to do his job? How do you think he remembers all of the things he needs to do?

- ★ What are some ways that have helped you learn things in the past?

For you?

- ★ What are some strategies you might use if you were in Greg's position? How would you try to remember ?

For you?

If you have a chance to try a new job, give it a try! You might like it more than you expect. And you might enjoy meeting people and other things about the job, too!