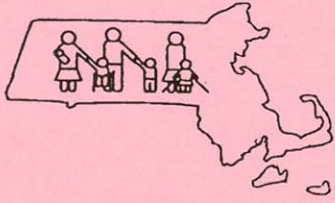


# Family TIES of Massachusetts



## Transition to Adulthood

- T** Taking the time to listen to what your child wants.
- R** Remember that you are the constant in your child's life. Agency people don't stay forever... you do!
- A** Advocate! No one knows your family like you do. Don't let anyone second-guess your vision!
- N** Natural supports only work when they are REALLY natural!!! Make sure you are comfortable with what you are asking people to do.
- S** Support yourself with your family and friends. Don't let the transition process take over your whole life. Tell the professionals to back off when you need "downtime" as a family.
- I** Initiate your own ideas. Dare to dream and don't let ANYONE take those dreams away from you! Your child is counting on you.
- T** Tell your support agencies what your negotiables and non-negotiables are. Stand your ground!
- I** Identify supports from your community but don't be discouraged if people don't "line up" to help. Everyone has their own problems and their own lives.
- O** Operate on the assumption that your vision WILL come to fruition - think positive and positive things will eventually come along.
- N** **Never give up!** Persistence, patience and positive attitude are your best attributes in the transition process (and a great sense of humor doesn't hurt ☺). Always see your child as a person first, disabilities second and other people will see him/her that way too.



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