Customized Employment

1. Customized Employment (CE) is a compelling job development technique for improving competitive integrated employment outcomes for individuals with extensive support needs.

2. CE uses flexible strategies such as customizing job descriptions, modifying job duties and schedules, and providing the employee with on-the-job supports.

3. The four components of CE are discovery, job search planning, job development and negotiation, and post-employment support.

4. There is evidence to suggest that CE not only improves competitive integrated employment outcomes, but also increases employee independence in the areas of home living, employment, and protection and advocacy.

5. Strategies for helping families to view CE as a viable option for their children include providing information about the components and effectiveness of CE, and referring families to local CE providers.

6. Providing students with a variety of work-based learning experiences prior to graduation may enhance the success of CE.