



New York State Talent Development Consortium



Direct Support Professional Core Competencies

A Collaborative Approach for Improved Outcomes

Revised: 3-25-14



Direct Support Professional Core Competencies

NADSP Code of Ethics for Direct Support Professionals

The Code of Ethics developed through the National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals (NADSP) guides DSPs through the ethical dilemmas they face daily and encourages the highest professional ideals. Direct support staff, agency leaders, policymakers, and people receiving services are urged to read the code and to consider ways that these ethical statements can be incorporated into daily practice. **This code is not the handbook of the profession, but rather a roadmap to assist in staying the course of securing freedom, justice, and equality for all.**

- 1. Person-Centered Supports.** As a DSP, my first allegiance is to the person I support; all other activities and functions I perform flow from this allegiance.
- 2. Promoting Physical and Emotional Well-Being.** As a DSP, I will commit to promote the emotional, physical, and personal well-being of the people I support. I will encourage growth and recognize the autonomy of those receiving support while being attentive and energetic in reducing the risk of harm.
- 3. Integrity and Responsibility.** As a DSP, I will support the mission and vitality of my profession to assist people in leading self-directed lives and to foster a spirit of partnership with the people I support, other professionals, and the community.
- 4. Confidentiality.** As a DSP, I will safeguard and respect the confidentiality and privacy of the people I support.
- 5. Justice, Fairness and Equity.** As a DSP, I will affirm the human rights as well as the civil rights and responsibilities of the people I support. I will promote and practice justice, fairness, and equity for the people I support and the community as a whole.
- 6. Respect.** As a DSP, I will respect the human dignity and uniqueness of the people I support. I will recognize each person I support as valuable and promote their value
- 7. Relationships.** As a DSP, I will assist the people I support to develop and maintain relationships.
- 8. Self-Determination.** As a DSP, I will assist the people I support to direct the course of their own lives.
- 9. Advocacy.** As a DSP, I will advocate with the people I support for justice, inclusion, and full community participation.

Reprinted with permission from the National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals.



Direct Support Professional Core Competencies

Goal	Competency Area	Skill	Time Frame	Example Tasks	
Goal 1: Putting People First	Competency Area A: Supporting A Person's Unique Capacities, Personality, and Potential	Skill 1: Demonstrates respect for all individuals being supported	Core: 0-3 Months	a. Communicates directly with individuals b. Begins to use person-first language when communicating about the individual c. Uses body language and eye contact to show attention to others comments d. Monitors own tone of voice and volume when providing instruction and direction to individuals e. Assists individuals to dress and groom in a way that demonstrates his/her self-respect and dignity to others in the community	
			Core: 3-12 Months	a. Consistently uses person-first language when communicating about the individual b. Develops a respectful and genuine relationship with the individual that is demonstrated through tone of voice, interpersonal interactions, and content of conversations	
			Skill 2: Demonstrates support for individual choice-making in order to enhance confidence and assertiveness	Core: 0-3 Months	a. Supports choices made by the individual while taking into account health and safety concerns b. Demonstrates the use of positive feedback
				Core: 3-12 Months	a. Recognizes and supports choices made by the individual while taking into account health and safety concerns b. Provides positive feedback and encouragement to the person supported as the person assumes his/her leadership role in choice-making c. Assists individuals in sorting through choices
		Competency Area B: Getting To Know the Person Through Assessment/discovery	Skill 1: Evaluates the ways in which past and current events, and environmental factors, affect the way the person acts/reacts to others	Core: 0-3 Months	a. Reviews files and relevant information
				Core: 3-12 Months	a. Meets with the individual and their circle of support to learn more about the person b. Recognizes that challenging behavior can be a form of communication and responds to it appropriately
			Skill 2: Using a holistic approach participates in the individual's life planning activities and assists in their implementation	Core: 0-3 Months	a. Implements goals as written to achieve desired outcomes
				Core: 3-12 Months	a. Has access to and can interpret and question the plans b. Is able to respectfully contribute, within the team setting, to the identification of desired plans for an individual
	Skill 3: Encourages and supports problem-solving and coping skills		Core: 3-12 Months	a. Talks about problems/concerns with the individual to gain understanding of his/her point of view b. Helps the person better cope with their problem by providing emotional support	
	Skill 4: Is informed about formal and informal assessment, and can conduct informal assessments in a variety of settings, to gain information about the individual and his/her response to the environment		Core: 3-12 Months	a. Can demonstrate the use of informal assessment techniques used on a daily basis in each setting in which he/she works with individuals (home, work, travel, neighborhood, etc.), such as observation, active listening, etc.	
	Skill 5: Supports the self-direction of services	Core: 3-12 Months	a. Can describe the concept of self-determination and how it applies to the person receiving support		



Direct Support Professional Core Competencies

Goal	Competency Area	Skill	Time Frame	Example Tasks
	Competency Area C: Promoting Advocacy with the Individual	Skill 1: Seeks information on the range of services available to individuals with developmental disabilities	Core: 0-3 Months	a. Is able to describe, in general terms, categories of services available
			Core: 3-12 Months	a. Can describe the basic structure of the services available for people with developmental disabilities to meet the individual's needs and desires, and is able to advocate for additional services, as needs arise
				b. Clearly communicates suggestions to team members for types of services and supports that an individual needs and/or wants
			c. Can state who to contact to find out about various services from which the person can benefit	
		Skill 2: Provides opportunities for the individual to be a self-advocate	Core : 0-3 Months	a. Encourages and assists the individual to express on his/her own behalf
	Skill 3: Performs advocate responsibilities while demonstrating respect for the processes and people involved	Core: 3-12 Months	a. Is able to describe the individual's rights to due process through the agency's human rights committee	
			b. Can identify who to contact when advocacy questions arise	
		c. Follows the appropriate communication and supervisory channels when initiating change or change recommendations		
	Skill 4: Describes and supports individuals' rights and responsibilities	Core 0-3 Months	a. Is able to discuss the rights and responsibilities to which any individual is entitled	
	Skill 5: Identifies when an individual's rights may have been breached and takes action to prevent, stop and report the possible breach	Core: 3-12 Months	a. Can discuss the challenges faced by individuals with developmental disabilities in regards to their rights	
	Competency Area D: Facilitating Personal Growth and Development	Skill 1: Demonstrates the ability to effectively teach skills to people supported	Core: 0-3 Months	a. Demonstrates the ability to follow a plan for successful teaching
			Core: 3-12 Months	a. Takes advantage of informal opportunities to teach
				b. Is able to teach in a group setting
			c. Is able to identify the effectiveness of the teaching plans	
		Skill 2: Recognizes the individual's need for teaching, and preferred style for learning, and can perform individualized teaching based on this information	Core: 3-12 Months	a. Can describe the way in which the individual prefers to learn
Skill 3: Assesses the effectiveness of formal and informal teaching provided and makes adaptations where needed	Core: 3-12 Months	a. Listens to and observes the individual, while he/she performs skills related to teaching provided, to determine if the individual has learned the desired skill		
Competency Area E: Facilitation of Supports and Services	Skill 1: Assists in the development, implementation and on-going evaluation of service plans that are based on the individual's preferences, needs and interests	Core: 0-3 Months	a. Is able to implement service plans, as written	
		Core: 3-12 Months	a. Continuously evaluates the service plans and makes recommendations, as needed	
			b. Engages the individual in service planning discussions and activities	
	Skill 2: Continuously shares observations, insights, and recommendations with the individual and his/her support team	Core: 0-3 Months	a. Shares information in an organized, timely and sensitive manner	
	b. Shares direct input from the individual and his/her support team members			



Direct Support Professional Core Competencies

Goal	Competency Area	Skill	Time Frame	Example Tasks			
Goal 2: Building and Maintaining Positive Relationships	Competency Area F: Building and Maintaining Relationships	Skill 1: Supports individuals to overcome barriers and challenges to establishing and maintaining a network of relationships and valued social roles	Core: 0-3 Months	a. Encourages the use of social skills to develop and maintain positive relationships b. Follows the sexual consent status and values of the individual being supported			
			Core: 3-12 Months	a. Assists in teaching social skills to develop and maintain positive relationships			
		Skill 2: Demonstrates the ability to identify the individual's personal strengths, interests and needed supports for community involvement	Core: 0-3 Months	a. Supports the person in exploring and practicing faith, religion, spiritual and cultural interests without personal bias			
			Core: 3-12 Months	a. Identifies likes and dislikes, and matches interests and people with available events and activities in the neighborhood and community b. If the person desires, supports the person to choose a method to observe his/her faith/religion/spirituality/culture/ethnicity, and make connections with other community members without staff imposing their own values c. Based upon the individual's desires, supports the person to become a valued member and active participant in groups in his/her faith/spiritual community by looking for opportunities for the person to be included in spiritual activities with their ethnic/cultural group			
				Core: 0-3 Months	a. Assists the individual to recognize and take pride in his/her abilities and achievements		
		Competency Area G: Creating Meaningful Communication	Skill 1: Uses a range of effective communication strategies and skills to establish a collaborative relationship with the person	Core: 0-3 Months	a. Uses a polite tone of voice b. Encourages the person to express him/herself c. Recognizes and respects individual's need for periods of quiet, non-communication time d. Speaks, models, signs, shows pictures and objects or uses adaptive equipment in ways that the person understands, according to their plan		
	Core: 3-12 Months				a. Identifies likes and dislikes, wants and needs, by the person's verbal and non-verbal communication as well as in context with personal history and input from friends, relatives and professionals		
					Skill 2: DSP modifies own communication to ensure understanding and respect	Core: 0-3 Months	a. Includes the individual in the conversation, by speaking with the individual, not about the individual b. Avoids making assumptions about an individual's cognitive abilities based on his/her communication abilities
						Core: 3-12 Months	a. Uses a variety of communication techniques to meet the individual's needs
	Skill 3: Develops trust by communicating empathetically		Core: 0-3 Months	a. Demonstrates caring through body language, tone, and providing adequate time for communication b. Demonstrates active listening by repeating words or gestures, asking questions, and validating feelings			
			Core: 3-12 Months	a. Talks about problems/concerns with the individual to gain an understanding of his/her point of view			
	Skill 4: Recognizes the impact of the possible discrepancies between the individual's chronological age and developmental age when communicating		Core: 0-3 Months	a. Uses communication techniques appropriate to the individual's ability to comprehend b. Speaks in a manner that shows respect			



Direct Support Professional Core Competencies

Goal	Competency Area	Skill	Time Frame	Example Tasks			
Goal 3: Demonstrating Professionalism	Competency Area H: Developing Professional Relationships	Skill 1: Demonstrates respect in all professional relationships	Core: 0-3 Months	a. Respects friends and family members through his/her actions and words b. Actively listens to and take actions related to expressed concerns and passes information along to appropriate personnel members c. Demonstrates tolerance and acceptance with others d. Develops positive and productive relationships with his/her coworkers, supervisor, and other colleagues			
			Core: 3-12 Months	a. Is able to empathize and effectively communicate with family and friends of the individual			
			Competency Area I: Exhibiting Professional Behavior	Skill 1: Demonstrates the following desirable professional qualities in the worksite: professional demeanor, attention to punctuality and attendance policies, reliability, flexibility, and pleasantness	Core: 0-3 Months	a. Demonstrates courtesy to others and contributes to a positive team atmosphere b. Complies with agency regulations and policies related to dress, confidentiality, professional appearance and use of electronic devices c. Arrives at work on time, limits use of unscheduled absences, accurately signs in and out d. Continuously engages in productive activity while at work e. Is open to doing things in a variety of ways f. Serves as a positive role model and team member g. Respects personal and professional boundaries	
					Core: 3-12 Months	a. Follows through on all projects and responsibilities b. Readily adapts to changes in work assignments c. Approaches problems in a solution oriented manner d. Diverts communication related to problems and dissatisfaction from peers to appropriate channels to effect improvement or resolution	
	Competency Area J: Showing Respect for Diversity and Inclusion	Skill 1: Demonstrates respect in all matters relating to diversity and inclusion			Core: 0-3 Months	a. Shows respect for others' values without imposing their own b. Demonstrates a willingness to accept and respect all components of human diversity	
					Core: 3-12 Months	a. Treats individuals served, families and co-workers equitably b. Can articulate personal biases and does not let their personal biases affect their work and seeks support when needed c. Can describe cultural biases and personal differences that might have an effect on interpersonal relationships when working with individuals, families and co-workers/team members d. Demonstrates the cultural competence required to provide effective support to those we serve	
					Skill 2: Demonstrates the awareness, attitude, knowledge and skills (i.e. cultural competence) required to provide effective support to those we serve from any particular ethnic, racial, sexual orientation, religion, gender, socio-economic, age or disability group, as well as any other component diversity groups	Core: 0-3 Months	a. Can discuss the concepts of fairness and respect, and the impact that discrimination based on <u>disability, race, gender, religion, etc., has on people</u> b. When the DSP recognizes that an individual is being discriminated against, he/she is able to serve as an ally to the individual by intervening to stop the inappropriate comments/actions against the individual c. When a DSP recognizes that an individual is being discriminated against, he/she reports it <u>according to agency procedures</u>
						Core: 3-12 Months	a. Can effectively communicate with those we support regarding their abilities and challenges they <u>may face</u> b. Demonstrates sensitivity to the lasting effects that discrimination can have on individuals c. Supports culture and gender specific preferences for health and personal care in accordance with <u>agency policy</u> d. Identifies and reports the possible disparities in health care delivery that often negatively impact the individuals supported



Direct Support Professional Core Competencies

Goal	Competency Area	Skill	Time Frame	Example Tasks		
	Competency Area K: Creating Meaningful Documentation Records	Skill 1: Maintains accurate records by collecting, compiling, evaluating data and submitting it in a timely manner to the appropriate sources	Core: 0-3 Months	a. Notes are recorded in the proper place and in the proper format b. Notes are signed and dated, according to agency policy c. Documentation is thorough, including data where required, baseline information, etc. d. Documentation is done on time, according to agency policy e. Maintains standards of confidentiality and ethical practice		
			Core: 3-12 Months	a. Recorded communication should reflect progress and choices made in a manner that would be clearly understood by a reader unfamiliar with the person or program b. Clearly and effectively communicates information through his/her documentation practices		
			Competency Area L: Education, Training and Self-Development Activities	Skill 1: Demonstrates enthusiasm for learning the knowledge and skills required to perform the job	Core: 0-3 Months	a. Attends, actively participates in, and successfully completes all required training sessions b. Asks mentors and supervisors to share best practices
				Skill 2: Readily seeks and accepts feedback to improve performance	Core: 0-3 Months Core: 3-12 Months	a. Is open to and accepting of developmental feedback a. Seeks to learn from mistakes; avoids defending mistakes
	Skill 3: Applies knowledge and skills gained to the job	Core: 0-3 Months Core: 3-12 Months		a. Discusses application of skills with supervisor/mentor prior to use a. Demonstrates the ability to learn and apply new and innovative techniques b. Demonstrates the skill to his/her designated experienced staff or supervisor c. Receives feedback and applies it to improve skill proficiency on the job		
	Competency Area M: Organizational Participation	Skill 1: Adheres to and promotes the mission, culture and practices of the organization	Core: 0-3 Months	a. Is able to articulate the agency mission and culture in his/her own words and describe how his/her job and everyday activities help support the agency mission		
			Core: 3-12 Months	a. Is able to apply, demonstrate, and incorporate the agency mission and culture into everyday practice		
		Skill 2: Participates in the work of the organization in a positive way by using problem solving skills	Core: 0-3 Months	a. Participates in the identification of problems		
			Core: 3-12 Months	a. Participates in the identification of the causes of problems b. Actively participates in the identification of solutions c. Examines options and is open to input		
		Skill 3: Adheres to corporate compliance policies and procedures	Core: 0-3 Months	a. Successfully completes training on corporate compliance topics b. Can access the organization's corporate compliance procedures documents c. Follows the organization's corporate compliance procedures d. Recognizes and reports fraudulent behaviors		
	Competency Area N: Exhibiting Ethical Behavior on the Job	Skill 1: Knows, understands, and follows the NADSP Code of Ethics	Core: 0-3 Months	a. Can access and discuss the 9 aspects NADSP Code of Ethics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary allegiance is to the person receiving support • Supports the physical, emotional and personal well-being of the person receiving services • Shows integrity and responsibility by assisting people to live self-directed lives while, fostering a sense of partnership with the person supported • Respects and safeguards the confidentiality and privacy of the people served • Promotes and practices justice, fairness and equity for people served while affirming human and civil rights and responsibilities • Shows respect for the uniqueness of each person served and value for the persons unique qualities • Assists people served to develop and maintain meaningful relationships with other people • Support the persons served to direct the course of their own lives • Advocates for the people supported for justice, inclusion and full community participation 		
				b. Seeks out clarification when not sure about issues around ethics		
				c. Begins to put the NADSP Code of Ethics into practice		
			Core: 3-12 Months	a. Routinely puts the NADSP Code of Ethics into practice		



Direct Support Professional Core Competencies

Goal	Competency Area	Skill	Time Frame	Example Tasks
Goal 4: Supporting Good Health	Competency Area O: Promoting Positive Behavior and Supports	Skill 1: Demonstrates team work with the individual, co-workers and family in implementing positive behavioral support strategies consistent with available behavior support plans	Core: 0-3 Months	a. Accepts and uses feedback to implement positive behavior supports
			Core: 3-12 Months	a. Provides feedback on the effects of the approaches taken
		Skill 2: Demonstrates effective methods to teach positive behaviors and support existing positive behaviors	Core: 0-3 Months	a. Encourages and recognizes positive behaviors by using praise and various reinforcers effectively b. Is a role model for positive behavior
			Core: 3-12 Months	a. Uses the preferred mode of communication to offer cues to promote positive behaviors
		Skill 3: Assess strategies to evaluate how environmental factors affect behavior	Core: 0-3 Months	a. Can articulate ways in which environmental factors can have an impact on behavior
			Core: 3-12 Months	a. Proactively reduces previously identified stressful environmental factors such as noise, light, and heat
	Competency Area P: Supporting Health and Wellness <i>(Note: The responsibility of the DSP will vary depending on the type of service arrangement, such as certified vs. uncertified settings; agency vs. self-directed services, etc.) (Registered Professional Nurses are responsible for training, supervising, and evaluating DSPs on delegated nursing tasks and the provision of health care. Supervisors and RNs should be communicating regularly regarding DSPs performance on these tasks)</i>	Skill 1: Demonstrates and assists in nutritious meal planning and food preparation, storage and handling procedures	Core: 0-3 Months	a. Teaches dining skills according to the individual's needs
				b. Assists individuals to use clean, healthy practices when preparing meals
				c. Adheres to allergy alerts, texture, portion size, and other alerts related to the special requirements of the individual
		Skill 2: Demonstrates knowledge and understanding of an individual's medical, physical, psychological, and dental health care needs	Core: 0-3 Months	a. Can discuss the health care information needed to support that person
				b. Reviews the person's plan of nursing services to gain a better understanding of the individual's health care needs
				c. Can describe general changes in behavior that could be a sign of a possible health-related concern
Core: 3-12 Months	d. Assists and advocates for individual, as needed and appropriate, to facilitate and optimize informed health care services			
	e. Assists individual in the safe use and maintenance of adaptive equipment.			
Core: 3-12 Months	a. Follows and can articulate the reasons for procedures that support special populations; such as aging individuals, individuals with diabetes, Prader-Willi syndrome, Autism Spectrum disorders, and those with dual diagnoses. b. Able to understand person's normal behavior and recognizes changes that may indicate health concerns.			



Direct Support Professional Core Competencies

Goal	Competency Area	Skill	Time Frame	Example Tasks
		Skill 3: Demonstrates knowledge of and uses accepted methods to prevent illness and disease, and teaches prevention methods to the individual <i>(Note: This section may not apply in uncertified settings)</i>	Core: 0-3 Months	a. Communicates observed health care concerns to the necessary support network
				b. Can state why a person is receiving a specific medication or treatment, as well as the intended effects of that medication or treatment
				c. Monitors and reports any adverse side effects of medication or treatments provided
				d. Assists, as needed, in healthcare activities of daily living (ADLs), such as oral hygiene and personal care
				e. Successfully achieves Medication Administration Certification (AMAP), if required by the individual, support setting or agency policy
				f. If Medication Administration Certified (AMAP), the DSP assures that medications are accurately administered and recorded in keeping with agency policy and professional performance standards
				g. Can discuss ways in which healthy personal care and hygiene practices prevent illness
		Skill 4: Recognizes and responds in a timely manner to signs and symptoms of illness/injury and medical emergencies	Core: 0-3 Months	a. Is able to identify when an individual is experiencing an illness or injury and responds according to established protocols
				b. Able to access emergency phone numbers, such as 911 or EMS
				c. Achieves and maintains CPR, first aid and other certifications according to agency policy
		Skill 5: Provides a safe and clean environment for the individual based on skill level and risks	Core: 3-12 Months	a. Assists in securing needed medical appointments in a timely manner (scheduling, arranging transportation, supporting questions and explanations, following agency protocols on consult sheets, documentation, etc.)
		Skill 5: Provides a safe and clean environment for the individual based on skill level and risks	Core: 0-3 Months	a. Correctly uses standard precautions, especially hand washing, and can explain the underlying concepts of personal and environmental contamination
				b. Uses personal protective equipment (PPE), such as gloves, gowns and masks, when appropriate
Skill 6: Accurately documents and adequately protects all health information	Core: 3-12 Months	a. Frequently cleans and requests replacement of toothbrushes, vaporizers/humidifiers and other ordinary and specialty equipment according to the individual's health plan, standard medical practice, and the manufacturer's instructions		
Skill 6: Accurately documents and adequately protects all health information	Core: 0-3 Months	a. Documents the individual's health status, medications, medical needs and appointments, as required		
		b. Maintains and protects all protected health information (PHI) as directed by the HIPAA legislation		
Skill 7: Understands and can implement daily health practices to support good health	Core: 0-3 Months	a. Uses appropriate and safe turning, positioning and transfer techniques to support skin and bone integrity and effectively meet individual's unique needs		
		b. Demonstrates holistic approaches that recognize importance of practices as it relates to appropriate and adequate diet and nutrition, rest and exercise, stress reduction, and smoking cessation		
		c. Correctly completes routine and/or urgent health care practices such as tube feeding, insulin administration, colostomy and/or catheter care, and Epi-pen administration		



Direct Support Professional Core Competencies

Goal	Competency Area	Skill	Time Frame	Example Tasks
	Competency Area Q: Preventing, Recognizing, and Reporting Abuse	Skill 1: Recognizes concepts related to the prevention of abuse.	Core: 0-3 Months	a. Can identify abuse as described in the regulations
				b. Can discuss the possible impact of abuse on the person
				c. Can prevent, stop, safeguard against, and report abuse according to the OPWDD policy
			Core: 3-12 Months	a. Develops a deeper understanding of an individual and can describe how changes in his/her mood, interpersonal interactions, and behavior could be an indicator of abuse
				b. Can provide examples of the range and nuances of abuse, and respond according to agency and OPWDD policy.
		Skill 2: Is able to prevent abuse	Core: 0-3 Months	a. Can effectively intervene so that abuse does not occur
				b. Can identify triggers and warning signs that indicate abuse might be likely to occur
		Skill 3: Correctly follows procedures for mandated reporting and responding.	Core: 3-12 Months	a. Assists the team and individual to put in place a plan to prevent further incidences
				Core: 0-3 Months
b. Reports possible abuse to the appropriate person in a timely manner				
		c. Cooperates with the investigative process		



Direct Support Professional Core Competencies

Goal	Competency Area	Skill	Time Frame	Example Tasks
Goal 5: Supporting Safety	Competency Area R: Supporting Crisis Prevention, Intervention, and Resolution	Skill 1: Demonstrates skill in applying the principles and practices of the OPWDD PROMOTE (<i>P</i> ositive <i>R</i> elationships <i>O</i> ffer <i>M</i> ore <i>O</i> pportunities <i>T</i> o <i>E</i> veryone) competencies and individual-specific Behavior Support Plan, if applicable. (Note: The responsibility of the DSP will vary depending on the needs of the individuals served and the policies of each agency)	Core: 0-3 Months	a. Supports the individual's connections to others, self-confidence and opportunities for relaxation and recreation (Green Zone) to decrease the possibility of a crisis occurring
				b. When the individual is unable to cope with stress (Yellow Zone), the DSP is able to effectively use the following R-Star techniques: Reassessment, Reassurance, Repeat-Ask-Validate, Remind, and Restore.
				c. Can discuss an individual's vulnerabilities, strengths and potential irritants and effective supports
				d. Intervenes effectively when a person is a danger to him/herself and/or others (Red Zone)
				e. Works to repair and restore the environment and peoples' emotions after a crisis situation (Red Zone)
				Skill 2: Demonstrates respect for the safety of all others
	Competency Area S: Supporting Safety	Skill 1: Supports the safety of all individuals in everyday situations	Core: 0-3 Months	a. Is able to operate emergency equipment, as required
				b. Reports to appropriate personnel any detected problem with emergency equipment, or the need for emergency supplies
				c. Seeks out and reports potential hazards related to fire, ice, etc.
		Skill 2: Follows proper safety procedures in transportation situations	Core: 0-3 Months	a. Adheres to agency policies, requirements and regulations
				b. Can properly operate transportation equipment, such as the lift, and secure wheelchairs, oxygen, and other equipment
				c. If operating a vehicle, maintains a current NYS driver's license consistent with agency requirements
Competency Area T: Ensuring Safety of Individuals During Environmental Emergencies	Skill 1: Understands and can carry out plans for responding to environmental emergencies	Core: 0-3 Months	a. Can describe and implement the personal protection plan based on the needs of the individual being supported	
			b. Is aware of and can execute specific emergency preparedness plans for the location in which he/she works	
			c. Actively participates in and documents the fire escape drills conducted in the location, according to agency policy	



Direct Support Professional Core Competencies

Goal	Competency Area	Skill	Time Frame	Example Tasks
Goal 6: Having a Home	Competency Area U: Supporting People to Live in the Home of Their Choice (<i>Note: The responsibility of the DSP will vary depending on the needs of the individuals served and the policies of each agency</i>)	Skill 1: Supports the individual by supporting a comfortable home environment	Core: 0-3 Months	a. Demonstrates respect by acknowledging that the location is the individual's home or the individual's family home, not the staff's work site
				b. Can describe the physical environment of the support setting
				c. Follows the rules and guidelines in the home
		Skill 2: Supports daily activities and accesses additional skilled supports as needed	Core: 0-3 Months	a. Can describe the individual's daily routine and assists with the routine based on the individual's needs and desires
				b. Assists the individual with routine household chores according to the individual's needs (i.e. changing light bulbs, placing decorations outside, etc.)
				Core: 3-12 Months
Core: 3-12 Months	a. Assists the individual to develop his/her skills and activities based on the abilities and needs of the individual			
	b. Assists the individual to become as self-sufficient as possible with transportation needs, and refers for travel training when necessary			
	c. Assists the individual to develop his/her household management skills, based on the individual's needs			



Direct Support Professional Core Competencies

Goal	Competency Area	Skill	Time Frame	Example Tasks
Goal 7: Being Active and Productive in Society	Competency Area V: Supporting Active Participation in the Community	Skill 1: Supports community participation and contribution	Core: 0-3 Months	a. Implements plans, as directed, to promote community connections
			Core: 3-12 Months	a. Supports community connections and activities through personal interest, contribution and productivity b. In an unbiased fashion, facilitates the opportunity for civic engagement, such as voting
	Competency Area W: Supporting Employment, Educational and Career Goal Attainment	Skill 1: Supports the individual by being knowledgeable about the career and employment goals of the individual	Core: 0-3 Months	a. Implements plans, as directed, to support career and employment interests and goals of the individual
			Core: 0-3 Months	a. Implements plans, as directed, to support educational interests and goals of the individual
		Skill 2: Supports the individual by being knowledgeable about the educational goals of the individual	Core: 3-12 Months	a. Can describe the educational interests of the individual b. Can describe and discuss the educational supports needed by the individual
			Skill 3: Develops and supports the individual's skills to help the individual meet the productivity expectations of the workplace	Core: 0-3 Months