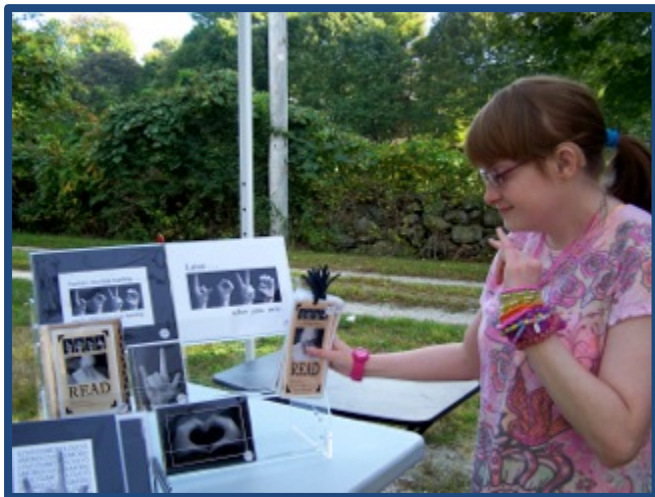


# Emily's Profile

## Emily - Kingston, RI – Self-Employment - Love Letters by Emily

- My mother created our home-based business, Love Letters by Emily, with the idea that this would be the perfect person-centered plan for me when I turned 21. No other existing Adult Day Program or Integrated Employment opportunities seemed to fit my needs.
- Love Letters by Emily is a line of handmade greeting cards and other items based on American Sign Language.



and paper, picture frames, and all the craft supplies needed for the business.

- I help package and price all our stock, write a thank you note for each Etsy purchase, and send out our orders. I also enjoy visiting our local points-of-sale to restock and arrange our displays and collect money from the sales. Our craft fair schedule and other special events – card making workshops, etc. also keep me busy.

- I inspired its creation in 2012 to share my knowledge of American Sign Language and promote a greater understanding of deaf awareness. Love Letters by Emily provides an opportunity for me to continue to learn and participate in my own community and develop job skills in a business with a real global reach as well.

- I am the ASL signer for all the photographs used to create Love Letters by Emily designs. I help in the production of the ASL prints and cards as much as I am able. I enjoy shopping for ink



- My hours vary depending on what needs to happen each day. I may work as little as one hour a day or up to six hours on a craft fair day.
- My family and support staff offer a great deal of help in my work. An Ipad and a desktop computer are necessities for our business – to keep all our photos and designs at our fingertips for printing. I use an Ipad to keep track of inventory at our shops by taking a photo of each display – and take credit card payments at craft fairs.
- I use a slant board when I make shopping lists and write thank you notes – It makes it easier for me to see print on a page.
- My direct service workers employed through my BHDDH-DDD self-directed supports plan serve as my job coaches as well as providing personal assistance services, language facilitation / interpretation, and transportation.



- Some of my SSI monthly income is used to buy supplies, and profits from our sales often go back into the business for craft fair fees and other expenses.
- Compliance with the Social Security Work Incentives program will establish a more formal pay rate should ORS offer support in the future
- We have been meeting with an ORS consultant and have been undergoing an employment evaluation for the last 10 months – seeking support, mainly for assistive technology needs.
- My family or my direct support staff drive and accompany me to our shop point-of-sale, craft fairs and functions, and provide transportation for all the business related errands – trips to the post office and bank, as well as shopping for supplies.
- Our local post office and two points-of-sale (Bagelz and the Fayerweather House) are within walking distance of home, and in the nicer weather I am able to walk to these destinations with a staff person or family member.
- I have significant developmental delays and intellectual disabilities - along with multiple chronic medical conditions. I have congenital cardiac and respiratory issues. Microphthalmia means I have vision in only one eye and no depth perception. I have bilateral hearing loss and communicate in sign language – I have no spoken language. My severe scoliosis was treated with surgery in 2013 and I continue to participate in a home-based physical therapy program.

See Emily at <https://youtu.be/5m1xA9VJ37M>

2/2015