

## Why Hire Someone With Prader-Willi Syndrome?

Persons with Prader-Willi Syndrome will work hard to earn your praise for a job well done. Given the correct environmental structure and supports, someone with Prader-Willi Syndrome can be one of your most valued employees.

Prader-Willi Syndrome is a rare and very complex medical disorder that affects an important supervisory center in the brain that controls many functions of the body including muscle strength, growth, metabolism, appetite regulation, and the management of emotions.

Beginning some time in childhood, the brain fails to regulate appetite normally. For a person with Prader-Willi Syndrome there is a constant preoccupation with food accompanied by an unrelenting, overwhelming physiological drive to eat called hyperphagia. Normal satiety (the feeling of fullness after eating) does not exist.

The physiological drive to eat is so powerful that most individuals with Prader-Willi Syndrome will go to great lengths to eat large quantities of food; many try to sneak food and some may even try to steal. Some people may eat food discarded in the trash. Along with the hyperphagia symptom, the metabolic rate is about half what it should be, so individuals with Prader-Willi Syndrome can gain an enormous amount of weight in a very short period of time. There is currently no known medication that will control or even reduce the drive to eat, though research is making great progress toward developing a medication specifically for persons with PWS.

When access to food is secure and managed well, the individual with PWS can focus on the task at hand and perform a job well done.

When it comes to tasks like shredding, sorting, adhering stamps onto cards, and more repetitive responsibilities of this nature, employees with Prader-Willi Syndrome often have tremendous patience and perseverance, often more so than other workers.

The Prader-Willi California Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to serving persons with Prader-Willi Syndrome and their families. The Foundation will provide free training to employers who hire persons with PWS and help you create an environment in which your employee with PWS can thrive.

Working together, we can help individuals with Prader-Willi Syndrome live a meaningful and productive life and pursue their hopes and dreams to the full extent of their talents and capabilities.

**For more information about Prader-Willi Syndrome or to request a free training contact**



**Prader-Willi California Foundation**  
514 N. Prospect Avenue, Suite 110-LL  
Redondo Beach, CA 90277  
310.372.5053 • 800.400.9994 Toll-free in CA  
PWCF1@aol.com • www.pwcf.org

