DSL Summer Program in Full Swing

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DSL staff member Amanda with participant Abbie at a summer program event.

For nine young adults, the Developmental Skills Lab at Utah State University’s Center for Persons with Disabilities is the place for summer fun.

DSL aide Daurie Bastian said the summer program participants join with Common Ground Outdoor Adventures once a week for activities like cycling, canoeing, rock climbing, picnics and trips to local parks. The summer program, which runs from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays at the DSL, also includes activities like movies, a science day, a trip to Hill Air Force Base near Ogden. They are even learning to work in the kitchen, Bastian said, and made jam for Father’s Day.

“They’re wonderful, it’s really fun,” Bastian said. “There are not a lot of behaviors you have to stop, they can just go and be and do.”

The five staff members for the summer program are mostly special education or speech-language pathology majors at USU who regularly provide respite care during the school year.

“They’re great,” Bastian said. “The summer program is just lots of fun, and lots of work. I’m really happy and excited for it.”