

## Kevin's Success Story: First Apartment



Kevin Arce is a Self-Advocate Coordinator out of the North Region for DDS and he has just rented his first apartment! What he enjoys most about having his own apartment is the sense of independence and accomplishment, as well as, knowing that he took a big step in life. The most challenging part of having his own apartment was moving in and constructing the furniture and TV stand, but even though it is a lot of lifting, it feels good. Kevin enjoyed living with his parents, but he knew that he couldn't live with them forever. He realized for him to grow he had to take the chance.

Some advice he would give to someone who wanted to move out would be to make sure they are ready, even if it takes them out of their comfort zone. Also, remember to accept help from other people and that no one can do everything by themselves. In 5 years, Kevin sees himself probably still living in his apartment and saving to help his family. When asked if he had any regrets he said, "I argue with my parents now and then, but despite all that, they are good parents, and they help me maintain the place and are showing me the ropes. They have helped me so much over the years and now it's my turn to help them." Kevin is excited about exploring his new community with the West Farms Mall and Target right next to him. He hopes to get a BJ's membership to save on the cost of groceries. "My role model is God, but everyone has their own beliefs, there own point of views. I chose to stick to my beliefs." Kevin has his driver's permit, and his next goal is to get his driver's license.