

Disability Entrepreneurs: Using Your Imagination to Create a Brighter Future for Your Child with Down Syndrome



Presented By,

Stephanie Meredith
Author of “Understanding
a Down Syndrome
Diagnosis” and Co-Author
of “Diagnosis to Delivery:
A Pregnant Mother’s
Guide to Down
Syndrome”

Entrepreneurial Spirit

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“Innovation distinguishes between a leader and a follower.”

Steve Jobs

“Imagination is everything. It is the preview of life's coming attractions.”

Albert Einstein

“Gillian isn't sick, she's a dancer.”

Sir Ken Robinson

Entrepreneurial Spirit



Sir Ken Robinson

Entrepreneurial Spirit

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Finding your niche:

What are your child's strengths?

What is your child's passion?

Who is supportive and encouraging?

What fits into your lifestyle?

What is your long range plan?

Recreation



Recreation



- Exploring new opportunities:
 - After school programs
 - Local rec centers
 - Civic organizations (YMCA, Scouts)
 - Local sports, martial arts, arts, and hobbies
 - Mentors
- Examples of other opportunities:
 - Karen Gaffney: Swimming
 - Andy Meredith: Scouting and Mountain Biking
 - Reed Hahne: Eagle Scout
 - Brad Hennefer: Golfing

Follow the talents and interests of the individual.

Technology



- Exploring new technology:
 - Phones
 - Facetime
 - Calculators
 - Texting
 - iPad apps
 - ABC games
 - Proloquo2Go

How my legs give me super powers: Aimee Mullins

Independence



Independence

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- Imagining an independent future
 - Staying alone for the first time
 - Stranger tests
 - Communication Plan
 - Safety plans
 - Teaching cooking
 - Microwave skills
 - Safety skills
- Teaching responsibility for personal hygiene

Friends



Friends



"Treat people as if they were what they ought to be and you help them to become what they are capable of being."

-Goethe

- Fostering friendships
 - Create a house magnet (goodies, water slide, video games, dog)
 - Invite friends over for outings (park, movies, bounce house)
 - Use social stories
 - Use communication tools.
 - Get involved in clubs, civic organizations,

Education



Education



- Tips for creating a classroom that promotes acceptance and creativity:
 - Volunteer to help teachers in the classroom
 - Develop disability awareness programs or class presentations
 - Create assignment templates using visuals or activities based on interest
 - Invite teachers to attend conferences and bring materials to them
 - Invite teachers to your child's events

Employment



Employment



- Beyond transition planning
 - Networking
 - Volunteering
 - Building a Resume
 - Developing an Online Profile
 - Creating a Business (Developing a Business Plan, Grants)
- Profiles of Success
 - Poppin Joe's Kettle Korn in KS
 - Lorraine Bakery in MA
 - Tim's Place in NM
 - Andy's Photography Exhibitions

Employment



Imagining and building our future





Stephanie Meredith

770-310-3885

stephaniem@canisterco.com