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

Presented By,

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

“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

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

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

How my legs give me super powers: Aimee Mullins
Independence
Independence

- 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
"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
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

• 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
Imagining and building our future
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