

Who Am I?

- My ethnic roots and background
- From the bush, rural, or urban
- My family's economic history
- How I got my education
- Our subsistence activities
- Our spiritual beliefs
- Sharing and contributing
- Hunter success
- Cooperation
- Respect for elders

Historically – What has existed for people with disabilities.....

- Isolation, seclusion, separation by location, activities and schedule
- Rejection, loneliness, always on the outside, ignored
- Old stories, negative reputations, labels, negative self-fulfilling prophecies
- Limited voice, restriction, lack of representation, no power
- Unproductive, severely ignored underdeveloped, no resources, low expectations

In truth.....today, many people with disabilities still experience those attitudes

What can we do to make it better?

- Use people first language and always be respectful in what we say
- Offer people more choices and controls in their lives
- Get people included in their communities so people can get to know them
- Recognize people's gifts and talents and help them find ways to contribute
- Help people build relationships and friendships
- Believe in the community – there are wonderful opportunities out there
- Help people keep track of their life story so it won't be lost
- Help people dream and imagine what a positive future might be like
- Give people experiences so they can make informed choices
- Don't shoot down people's dreams....let them reach for the stars
- Be willing to walk the journey with them through life, laughing along the way
- Invite other people to share in the journey, too
- Take time to celebrate life and the small steps you take
- Pay attention to life's lessons that you learn along the way about what is really important

Five Accomplishments

- Community Presence
- Community Participation
- Encouraging Valued Social Roles
- Promoting Choice
- Supporting Contribution

John and Connie O'Brien

CAPACITY DESCRIPTION

Looks at Skills, Potential Skills, and Interests

- Helping Others
- Analytical Thinking
- Leadership
- Using their hands
- Artistic

Looks at Environments

- Noise and Commotion Level
- Ethnic Places
- Familiar Places
- Standard of efficiency and perfection

Looks at Social Identities

- Interest Identities
- Work or Trade
- Ethnic or Cultural
- Religious
- Appearance

Looks at Personal Habits

- Activity Levels
- Health Issues
- Disability Issues
- Structure Preferences

Looks at Personal Qualities

- Personality Traits
- Qualities People appreciate
- Qualities that need to be enhanced

Disability discussions revolve around supports and accommodations people need to do the things they want to do. What assistive technology or adapted equipment would make it easier? What personal support do they need for transportation, at meal times, to go to the bathroom, or for safety or health issues?

DEFICIENCY MODEL

Looks at things the person can't do

- Self care skills
- Independent Living skills
- Communication
- Mobility
- Self Direction
- Economic self sufficiency
- Social skills
- Judgment

Uses jargon to label the individual with disabilities

- Mental retardation
- Cerebral Palsy
- Learning Disabled
- Mentally Ill
- Severely Emotionally Disturbed

Only focuses on the disability issues

- Vision
- Hearing
- Cognitive problems
- Medical issues

Uses a medical model

- Person needs treatment
- Person needs medication(s)
- Person needs medical professionals to provide service
- People needs to be fixed or cured

Rarely takes input from the individual or their family. The professionals with all their credentials know what is best.

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- Don't settle for mediocrity
- Remember this is your child's real life...it isn't dress rehearsal
- RELATIONSHIPS...RELATIONSHIPS...RELATIONSHIPS