



411 Training for Professionals

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Our Story The condensed version!

The obvious difference

Georgetown

Going to the gym!

Today



The Initial Shock

- | | |
|------------|--------------------|
| Fear | Disbelief |
| Depression | Outrage |
| Hate | Relief |
| Grief | More Depression |
| Isolation | Analysis Paralysis |
| Anger | Crusaders Curse |
| Pain | Envy of others |
| Denial | Self Destruction |
| Shock | Alienation |
| Loss | Rage |



Questions We Ask

What we aren't told after, "I'm sorry your child has autism."

Who do I trust? Building a relationship.

What are all these weird things people are selling as a cure????????? Why parents want to believe.



Setting the Bar

- Who this child is today as no resemblance to who they will be in the future.
- Expect that they will do what you want every time you ask. If you don't believe it why would they.
- If your child is potty trained at home but not at school it's your fault!

Dill's Teachers and Therapists

- Phyllis - an act of kindness
- Meredith - The Goddess
- Lesley - professional, loving and constant
- Bethlehem - where is my kid!
- Stacey - exuberant and practical
- Alexis - proved that kids work!
- Ariel - more proof and dedication!!
- Haley - the next generation of junior therapist



Language that has value!

- If I were in Red Square would the color purple be valuable?? Pragmatic language only!
- Never start with More or letters and numbers-see above
- Shapes do not have value unless they are reinforcing.
- I speak/sign I get. I cry and get nothing!



Pairing

- Is the two year old going to work for you if they don't like you? Be Elmo!
- It might take 2 weeks or two months without pairing you will not succeed!
- Pair other kids in the school-Meredith technique
- Lunch Buddies at school is a good thing!
- Inclusion is a right you should fight for!



Thankful Parents!

Many parents will be grateful for your hard work with their children. They will gain hope for the child's future because you will give them the courage to believe change is possible!



Families

- All children with special needs take a toll on the families they have been given too.
- Divorce in families with a child with autism is nearly 90% (ASA conference 2008)
- Imagine never fully going to sleep so that your child could be safe.
- A little crazy sometimes but we can learn!
Work with your parents!



The Best

- Classes on Advocacy:
Partners in Policymaking - www.vaboard.org
- Classes on VB:
Anything by Tom Caffrey - www.thefate.org
- Special Needs Fun:
Surfers Healing - www.surfershealing.com and
C.A.S.T for Kids - www.castforkids.org
- Info on your child's rights:
Pete Wrights Classes - www.wrightslaw.com
- Reality Check:
Autism is a diagnosis not a life sentence.



Commercial

- POAC-NoVA is 100% Volunteer!
- PVBIA Beginner starts in October and will be looking for Parent Sponsors and Parent Therapists.
- Tom Caffrey is coming November 3rd-4th for Managing Problem Behaviors registration will start the around the 1st of October.



My Truth

This lecture and power point are my truth and reality and not the view of POAC-NoVA. These truth's are an attempt to help people understand things I still trying to get my head around some days. It's taken me 7 years to get some idea of how to help Dill climb Everest. Unlike most kids this is something he will be everyday of his life with a smile unbeknownst to anyone but those who love him.

Our kids aren't special in the way so many want them to be and they achieve more each day than most will in a life time. Be proud of your child, I am.
