
CENTER FOR DISABILITIES AND DEVELOPMENT

Possibilities in Education and Training

A quarterly publication of the Center for Disabilities and Development, Iowa's University Center for Excellence on Disabilities at University of Iowa Children's Hospital, Iowa City, Iowa 52242-1011

Freedom and a Fresh Start are Perfect Combination for Coralville Resident

By Mike Hoenig, Program Coordinator, State and Community Projects- Center for Disabilities and Development

"Freedom!" That was the immediate response I got from Jennifer (Jenny) Dundon when I asked what she liked most about living in her Coralville home. "I'm starting a new life and a new journey," she continued.

Jenny moved to her new home last November from a nursing home where she'd been living for a year and a half. She was forced into the nursing home stay following an extended hospitalization.

"I was too weak to go home, so we started looking for a rehab facility," Jenny explains. "No one knew how to take care of someone like me with both dystonia and cancer, so I ended up at Windmill Manor."



Sue Deets, a lifelong friend, told Jenny about Money Follows the Person (MFP), a Medicaid program which helps people who want to move from an Intermediate Care Facility for Persons with Intellectual disabilities or from a nursing home. "I learned about MFP while working for Iowa COMPASS at the Center for Disabilities and Development," explains Sue. "It seemed like just the right fit for Jenny."

"Julie Adams (an MFP transition specialist) came to visit me at Windmill Manor," Jenny explains. "I signed up for the program, and then we had to find a place for me to move. The decision was all up to me. After we visited one place, I said, 'No, Sue, that's not for me.' I wanted to be some place that has transportation where I could learn to make friends, cook, shop, and go to movies. I don't want to be pitied when I can do it myself!"

With Julie's assistance, Jenny found just the place, a comfortable three-bedroom house in Coralville staffed by Systems Unlimited. MFP helped her make the house a home by purchasing furniture and appliances, including the all-important coffee maker. "I have to have my morning coffee," says Jenny with a smile.

Both Jenny and Sue report that Julie has been with them every step of the way. "She comes to see me here at the house," Jenny explains. "She goes to meetings with me and helps me plan out what I want to do in the future."

"She even helped Jenny move in by carrying lots of heavy boxes," adds Sue.

Jenny's compassion for others shines through as she talks about her two roommates.

"When I first met Mary Jo*, I had trouble understanding her speech," Jenny tells me. "Then I got used to her, and she got comfortable with me and started talking fast. I just remind her to slow down, and then I understand her just fine."

"Heidi*, on the other hand, is pretty much nonverbal," Jenny explains. "She loves music, and we cheer her on when she sings along. She's the joy of the house."

Jenny has some sage advice for anyone thinking about moving to the community from a nursing home or other facility. "Never give up!"

** Names have been changed to protect confidentiality of Jenny's roommates.*

Understanding Our Mission Through Our Books... the Disability Resource Library (DRL)

HEALTH

Autism and Joint Attention: Development, Neuroscience, and Clinical Fundamentals /
Peter C. Mundy. New York: Guilford Press, 2016.

"Peter C. Mundy shows that joint attention impairments [the ability to adopt a common frame of reference with other people] are a unique dimension of autism spectrum disorder (ASD), beginning as early as the first few months of life – and that no other dimension is more strongly linked to early identification and treatment." –publisher

Supporting Students with Special Health Care Needs: Guidelines and Procedures for Schools / edited by Stephanie M. Porter, Patrician Branowicki, and Judith S. Palfrey. Baltimore: Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co., 2014.

“...this authoritative resource compiles the latest guidelines on working with students with special health care needs, step-by-step procedures for using medical technologies, and access to more than 50 reproducible planning forms and checklists.” -publisher

Caring for Children with Special Healthcare Needs and Their Families: A Handbook for Healthcare Professionals / edited by Linda L. Eddy. Ames, IA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2013.

“...a must-have book for family and pediatric nurse practitioners, registered nurses, healthcare technicians, physician assistants, and social services professionals who see these patients regularly as part of their patient load.” -publisher

THERAPY

Clinical and Organizational Applications of Applied Behavior Analysis / edited by Henry S. Roane, Joel E. Ringdahl, Terry S. Falcomata. San Diego: Academic Press, 2015.

“...explores data-based decision-making in depth to inform treatment selection for behavior change across various populations and contexts.” –publisher

Fine Motor Skills for Children with Down Syndrome: A Guide for Parents and Professionals, 3rd ed. / Maryanne Bruni. Bethesda, MD: Woodbine House, 2016.

“With expanded and updated information on fine motor skills and computer and personal electronic device use, keyboarding skills, postural support, sensory processing, and the adult years, readers will have at their fingertips a cornucopia of information and guidance to support the fine motor development of children and adults.” -publisher

The Science of Making Friends: Helping Socially Challenged Teens and Young Adults / Elizabeth A. Laugeson. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2013.

“Based on UCLA’s acclaimed PEERS program – the only evidence-based approach of its kind in the world – this accessible book and DVD offer the tools parents and educators need to become “social coaches” to the teens and young adults in their lives.” -publisher

PERSONAL SUPPORTS

The Loving Push: How Parents and Professionals can help Spectrum Kids become Successful Adults / Temple Grandin and Debra Moore. Arlington, TX: Future Horizons, 2015.

“The purpose of this book is to help parents let go and give careful, loving pushes to get their children to try new things.” –foreword, Temple Grandin

Promoting Happiness among Adults with Autism and other Severe Disabilities: Evidence-based Strategies / Dennis H. Reid. Middlebury, VT: Behavior Development Solutions, 2016.

“This book describes in practical terms what human service staff can do to promote happiness among the people they support. Relying on 40+ years of experience and over 100 published articles on providing supports for people with severe disabilities, the author provides tried and tested means for identifying and increasing individual happiness.” –publisher

Social Skills Success for Students with Autism/Asperger’s: Helping Adolescents on the Spectrum to Fit In /Fred Frankel, Jeffrey J. Wood. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2011.

“Frankel and Wood offer down-to-earth suggestions designed for teaching youth on the spectrum how to converse with others, display appropriate body language, manage anxiety, initiate and participate in get-togethers, and more.” –publisher

GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

Demystifying Transition Assessment / Colleen A. Thoma, Ronald Tamura. Baltimore, MD: Paul H. Brookes Publishing Company, 2013.

“Developed by two respected transition authorities, this practical guide prepares education professionals to use today’s best assessment tools and strategies to identify which transition approaches really work.”-publisher

Writing Successful Grant Proposals from the Top Down and Bottom Up / Robert J. Sternberg. Los Angeles: Sage Publications, 2014.

“Explores general strategies and tactics in writing successful proposals, including laying the groundwork, follow-up, attracting colleagues to participate, revisions, and resubmissions.” – publisher

“Use your passion... find your purpose in life and share it to impact others.”

-Dr. Jerry R. Alliston

This issue of “Possibilities” is dedicated to the memory of Linda Murray, long-time member of the production team and passionate advocate for advancing the civil rights of persons with disabilities.



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