
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 Stead Family Children's Hospital, Iowa City, Iowa 52242-1011

DeWitt Resident Imagines the Possibilities

*By Mike Hoenig, Program Coordinator, State and Community Projects-
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Kendra Thompson lives in a comfortable house in DeWitt with two roommates. She moved there three years ago shortly before the closure of Park Place, a residential facility located in southwest Iowa.

“I like it here,” explains Kendra. “There’s more free time. I love going to work, playing basketball and hanging out with staff.”

Staff from Imagine the Possibilities, a community service provider with locations throughout eastern Iowa, worked alongside Money Follows the Person (MFP) Transition Specialist Julie Adams to support Kendra in her move. MFP is a state-federal partnership which provides one year of intensive supports to individuals on select Medicaid waivers wishing to move from Intermediate Care Facilities or nursing homes to community settings.

“Because Park Place closed so quickly, Kendra didn’t have a chance to have a trial visit before moving,” Adams explains. “I called her to ask her preferences on furniture, clothing, and bedding, and then went shopping to furnish her new home.”

“I was scared to move at first, because I had friends at Park Place and I’d never been to DeWitt,” admits Kendra. “The staff (from Imagine the Possibilities) who came to pick me up were so nice. We stopped at Pizza Ranch for lunch, then drove here. Everyone made me feel welcome.”

Kendra has experienced several “firsts” since moving to DeWitt, including going to a fair, rodeo and circus and learning to cook. “I love making spaghetti and garlic bread,” beamed Kendra.

Being bored is not in Kendra’s vocabulary. She works four days a week as an assembler and goes to dayhab where she’s met some new friends. She swims regularly, goes out to eat, and attends many community events. “With so much going on,” she tells me, “I like sleeping in on the weekends. I didn’t have that freedom at Park Place.”

Adams is quick to credit Imagine the Possibilities for their support of Kendra. “They stick with her through good and bad, and assure her that she’s in a safe place.”

Kendra agrees. “This is a good spot, she says. “I’m happy I live here!”

Quality and the Struggle for Equality ...from the DRL

eQuality: The struggle for web accessibility for persons with cognitive disabilities.
Blanck, P. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press., 2014.

“Never before have the civil rights of people with disabilities aligned so well with developments in information and communication technology. The center of the technology revolution is the Internet’s World Wide Web, which fosters unprecedented opportunities for engagement in democratic society. This book is about the lived struggle for disability rights, with a focus on Web equality for people with cognitive disabilities. The principles derived – freedom of speech

and individual dignity – are bound to lead toward full and meaningful involvement in society for persons with cognitive and other disabilities.” –synopsis

Quality indicators for assistive technology: A comprehensive guide to assistive technology services. Bowser, G., Foster Carl, D., Fonner, K.S., Vernon Foss, T., Edgar Korsten, J., Lalk, K.M. Smiley Zabala, J. Wakefield, MA: CAST Professional Publishing, 2015.

“Filled with information and supports such as self-evaluation matrices, suggested activities, checklists, and other helpful tools, Quality Indicators for Assistive Technology is a clearly written and well-organized resource for those who seek to ensure that quality AT services are provided.” –synopsis

Developmental disabilities: A simple guide for service providers. Griffith, M. Raleigh, NC: Lulu.com, 2009.

“This book is for those who provide direct supports to individuals with developmental disabilities. It is designed to make up for some of the training and experience gaps of those on the front lines. It is not a traditional academic textbook on developmental disabilities although it contains an overview of academic knowledge, simply presented. The book also vividly and personally conveys the emotional dilemmas of this work through stories based on real people. The focus is on real-world problems and solutions. The audience includes direct care staff, case managers, supervisors, families, and others.” –synopsis

Eliminating inequities for women with disabilities: An agenda for health and wellness. Miles-Cohen, S. & Signore, C. (eds.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association, 2016.

“Over 20 million American women and girls have some form of disability, and this number will only increase in the years to come. At the same time, women with disabilities often have difficulty accessing health care services, and the quality of the health care they do receive is often worse than the care received by women without disabilities and by men with disabilities. The consequences of these disparities include increased prevalence of secondary complications, diminished quality of life, and even premature death. In this book, Miles-Cohen, Signore, and colleagues investigate the causes and consequences of these health care disparities.” -synopsis

People with disabilities: Sidelined or mainstreamed? Schur, L., Kruse, D., & Blanck, P. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 2015.

“This book provides an overview of the progress and continuing disparities faced by people with disabilities around the world, reviewing hundreds of studies and presenting new evidence from analyses of surveys and interviews with disability leaders. It shows the connections among economic, political, and social inclusion, and how the experience of disability can vary by gender, race and ethnicity.” –synopsis

“Our greatest glory is not in never falling,
but in rising every time we fall.”

—Confucius

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