

Possibilities

in Education and Training

Winter 2024



Possibilities Asks, “Where Are They Now?” Catching Up with Ty Launderville

By Michelle Johnston, Program Coordinator,
Center for Disabilities and Development

In the Winter 2020 edition of Possibilities, Ty Launderville began sharing his story with us. As a 19-year-old navigating his future path, he took on the challenging role of Community Ambassador. Flash forward to the Summer 2022 issue of our newsletter: Ty had not only secured a fulfilling full-time position but had also embraced his role of Community Ambassador with enthusiasm.

The Community Ambassador program is funded by the Iowa DD Council in partnership with Iowa’s University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities. Its purpose is to train individuals who have successfully transitioned to the community, or their family members, to describe the benefits of community living to residents of congregate facilities and their families.

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Ty's journey, fueled by his determination and resilience, continues to inspire as we catch up with him again. He recently graduated with an associate's degree in psychology. Congratulations Ty! He also purchased a dream car, a 2015 Cadillac ATS and he continues working. But one huge milestone in his advocacy journey was being selected as a member of the inaugural steering committee for a new national resource hub, The Link Center: Bridging I/DD and Mental Health Systems.

The Community Ambassador Program Manager, Tammie Amsbaugh, suggested all the Ambassadors apply to be part of the steering committee. Ty thought he would be a good addition and he applied by writing a paragraph about why he would be an excellent choice. "Guess they liked what I wrote," he said with a chuckle. "It is a huge honor to have been chosen to be an advocate on the national level."

The steering committee includes twelve people with lived experience from all over the United States. The purpose is to guide the Link Center in identifying resources that more effectively address the needs of individuals with I/DD and mental health conditions, acknowledging the distinctiveness of everyone's needs.

Starting in 2019, Ty (pictured at right) participated in community events representing people who had transitioned from living in a facility to community living.

The committee's term spans five years and convenes quarterly, offering Ty and other members the opportunity to contribute and shape the course of action. Ty is particularly looking forward to the two trips he will take to Washington, DC, as part of the committee. The first one, scheduled for September of this year, will also mark Ty's first plane ride. "It will be nice to meet the other members in person, and hopefully there will also be opportunities to explore some landmarks like the Smithsonian and the Air and Space Museum during my visit."

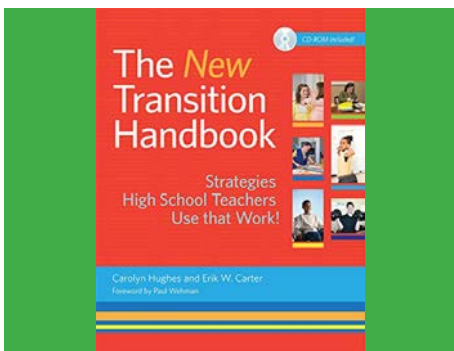
As we celebrate Ty's achievements and his ongoing dedication to advocacy, we are reminded of the transformative power of resilience, determination, and the unwavering commitment to making a difference in the lives of others. Through his journey, Ty shows he is embracing the opportunities to create meaningful change.

New Additions

Mitch DeFauw, *Disability Resource Librarian*

Learning alongside peers can be a delightful experience for a child, yet parents are well aware that it also comes with various challenges. This is especially true for students with disabilities and their families, who often face difficult decisions and obstacles, often with scarce resources to guide them through uncertainties. The Disability Resource Library and the UI Health Care Center for Disabilities and Development are continuously expanding their resources to provide better support for these children, their parents, and the educators who serve them.

The books below and more are all available for checkout at the DRL. You may browse online at uichildrens.org/drl-catalog. If you have any questions, contact Mitch DeFauw, mitchell-defauw@uiowa.edu.



The New Transition Handbook: Strategies High School Teachers Use that Work!

by Carolyn Hughes Ph.D. and Dr. Erik W. Carter Ph.D.

To help students with disabilities make a smooth transition from high school to adulthood, you need proven and practical strategies that prepare them for success in an increasingly complex world. There are more than five hundred research-based, teacher-tested support strategies in *The New Transition Handbook*—the modern transition guide for today's

students and the professionals who support them. Packed with ready-to-use strategies for teaching key skills and developing effective school and community supports, this is the ultimate guide to helping students thrive in the classroom.

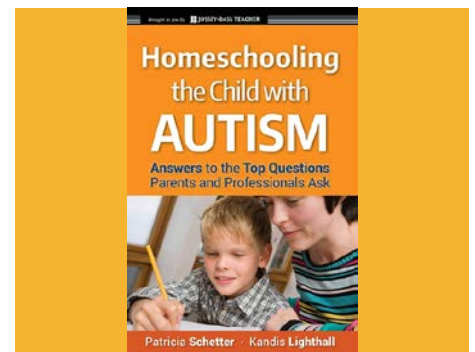


Social Skills Picture Book for High School and Beyond

by Jed Baker

This picture book appeals to the visual strengths of students on the autism spectrum, with color photos of students demonstrating various social skills in the correct (and sometimes incorrect) way. The skills depicted are meant to be read, role-played, corrected, when necessary, role-played some more

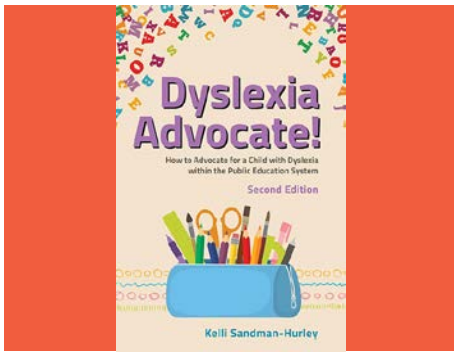
and, finally, to be practiced by the student in real-life social situations. “Thought bubbles” show what people are thinking during these interactions (not always what you hoped!). Practical, engaging, and down-to-earth, this is a valuable tool to help teens navigate the often-mysterious rules of social conduct in everyday situations.



Homeschooling the Child with Autism: Answers to the Top Questions Parents and Professionals Ask

by Patricia Schetter and Kandis Lighthall

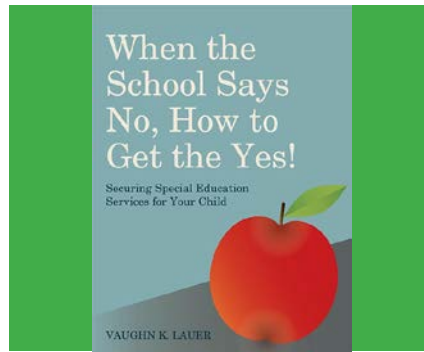
This practical, accessible guide answers parents' and professionals' questions about teaching children with autism spectrum disorders at home. The book helps parents decide whether to homeschool and guides them through the process of beginning and maintaining an effective homeschool program. The book also contains tips and suggestions from real-life parents who have successfully homeschooled their children with ASD and includes lists of helpful resources for homeschoolers.



Dyslexia Advocate!: How to Advocate for a Child with Dyslexia within the Public Education System

by Kelli Sandman-Hurley

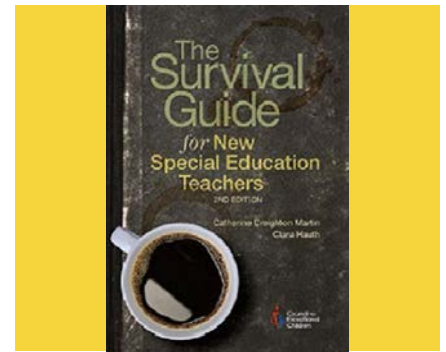
This guide provides the essential information for parents and advocates to understand US law and get the right educational entitlements for a child with dyslexia. Using case studies and examples, this book demonstrates clearly how to apply the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to the requirements of a dyslexic child. It offers help for parents on how to coordinate successfully with their child's school and achieve the right services and support for their dyslexic child; up to and beyond getting an effective Individual Education Plan (IEP).



When the School Says No, How to Get the Yes!: Securing Special Education Services for your Child

by Vaughn K. Lauer

When planning a child's Individualized Education Program (IEP), it is vital that parents and educators participate in collaborative decision making. This book offers parents of children with autism and other disabilities a unique way of approaching and tackling the problems that can arise relating to the provision of special education services. Taking a structured, cooperative approach to IEPs, the easily applicable six question process enables parents to determine the needs of their child and obtain the services required by asking key questions during IEP meetings.



The Survival Guide for New Special Education Teachers

by Catherine Creighton
and Clara Hauth

This book aims to assist novice teachers to bridge the gap between training and classroom practice. This new edition offers practical guidance on such topics as roles and responsibilities, school environment and culture, classroom organization and management, collaboration with other professionals, and individual professional development.

Possibilities in Education and Training is a quarterly publication of University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital Center for Disabilities and Development, Iowa's University Center for Excellence on Developmental Disabilities. It is an outreach initiative of the Conner Training Connection, a program funded by the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) to support the transition of individuals with disabilities from congregate to community-based settings.

“Without ambition one starts nothing. Without work one finishes nothing. The prize will not be sent to you. You have to win it.”

~Ralph Waldo Emerson

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