



AT A GLANCE

- * [Let Dreams Guide You](#)
- * [Resources](#)
- * [Websites](#)
- * [Services](#)
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Let Dreams Guide You

August 2013 Newsletter

Feeling apprehensive about the start of a new school year?

Worried about how well your child/student will be accepted by others?

Stressed about IEP details that still need to be worked out?

You are not alone! It's common for families, educators and students to experience some anxiety about the beginning of another year. Let's take a step back, take a deep breath, and remember the big picture:

Your child deserves a full life. Her voice matters. Her dreams count.

What do you most want for your child? What would a full life look like for him now and after high school/college graduation? Would he have a way to voice what is important to him? Would others listen to him? Who will help your child learn to dream and make those dreams a reality?

If you find yourself thinking or saying, "Yes, but my child has a disability" or "We haven't had good experiences at school, I can't imagine what it will be like after graduation" or "Yes, but you don't know my child." Set those fears aside for a few moments.

Parents: Picture your child/student with a big smile. Doesn't this image bring a smile to your face and warm your heart? This is the child you're dreaming for. This is the child you're helping learn how to dream for himself. There are many more possibilities today than have ever existed before. Believe your efforts can create change not only for your child, but also for many more children to come! Give yourself permission to dream. Want to know more about focusing on your child's extraordinary gifts? [Click here.](#)

Families: When you have that first meeting with your child's new teacher, start the conversation with your belief that the new school year will go well. Before the next IEP meeting spend a few minutes and jot down your hopes for your child's life and share your expectations that this next year is a stepping stone to your child's successful future. At the dinner table or when you tuck your child in at night, tell your child what you love about her and the wonderful things you see happening in her life.

Educators: In between back to school meetings and writing lesson plans, take a few moments to visualize what it will be like to have each of your students be celebrated for who they are. Develop what-if thinking and brainstorm with colleagues and parents how to implement new opportunities for ALL students in your class. Make this year the year to discover possibilities for each student to be successful.

Students: Dare to believe in yourself! Decide that this school year will be filled with accomplishments. Make a list of what

you want to accomplish, what makes you proud of yourself, and more, and add to your list throughout the year.

As a parent or educator, let the dreams you have for your child/student guide your thoughts, beliefs and actions! Encourage your child to know he deserves a full life. His voice matters and his dreams count!

Identify your vision: **Dream what you feel in your heart to be right.**

Use your voice: **Give your dreams a voice.**

Work together: **Surround yourself with those who maintain an abundance of imagination.**



Resources

Disability is Natural: Revolutionary Common Sense for Raising Successful Children With Disabilities, 3rd Edition has just been released by Kathie Snow, parent, author, and trainer. Kathie shares how parents and educators can support students to reach their dreams!

Order your copy of the updated and expanded edition today! [Click here](#) to order your autographed copy!



Websites

What will it take to support our children so they may pursue their dreams? Hear from adults with disabilities, our best teachers. [Click here](#) for some new perspectives.

These powerful stories are part of UNICEF's Report, *The State of the World's Children 2013 Children with Disabilities* [Click here](#) to read the insightful report.

Please let me know if you're interested in one of my presentations and/or customized consulting and coaching.

Remember, what we anticipate, determines what we find!

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As a parent and an educator, I bring 35+ years of experience and enthusiasm to create positive change for students, families, and educators!

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