

Creative Tips

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The Power of Believing

Do you believe in your clients, students or child with severe and multiple disabilities? In conversation after conversation with parents and professionals a certain positive belief system can make a difference in outcomes. Unconditional positive regard, a term popularly believed to have been coined by the psychologist, Carl Rogers, is a basic acceptance and support of a person regardless of what the person says or does or in the case of children with disabilities in what they can or an not do.

According to Rogers, students or clients who have not been exposed to it may come to see themselves in the negative ways that others have made them feel. In many situations if expectations are not met especially for children who have access issues or for individuals who do not "believe in the child" the child or client begins also to views themselves as a failure. The very basic start of the concept of Learned Helplessness.

There are certain qualities that some of therapists, teachers or parents have that allow them to successfully understand, perceive, touch and have a intuitive nature and ability to interact with individuals. What is it that these people posses? How can it be replicated or taught? How do you teach someone to be intuitive? Well, you really can't intuition comes with experience skills and sensitivity. What you can teach is a positive belief system about students with disabilities. First you can start with this brief outline to share with other professionals, parents or paraprofessionals:

The Power of Believing

(An oath for professionals who work with students with severe and/or multiple disabilities)

1. Believe that there is always hope.
2. Believe that small miracles are the best.
3. Believe that all movements, signals, cries and gestures are a positive form of communication.
4. Believe each individual has something positive and valuable to share with you.
5. Believe that if there is a will there is a way. Keep on trying. Never give up!
6. Believe that you have something positive to give to individuals with severe and multiple disabilities.
7. Believe in the concept that everyone can learn.
8. Believe that in order for success the learning experience needs to be a positive experience.
9. Believe that your touch, attitude, voice and smiles will always impact the child.
10. Believe that if you believe the child will believe

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