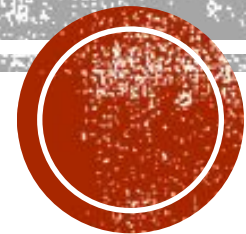


Parent Perspectives on Postsecondary Transition

“There is no more powerful advocate than a parent armed with information and options” Rod Paige



AUTISM TRAINING AND TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE PROJECT

Presented by Carissa Melody, M.S.,
Libby Raab and Jennifer Phillips

Illinois Center for Specialized Professional Support
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AUTISM TRAINING AND TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE PROJECT



Illinois
State Board of Education

icsps impacting
educational
equity

Illinois Center for Specialized Professional Support,
Illinois State University, College of Education



Learning Outcomes

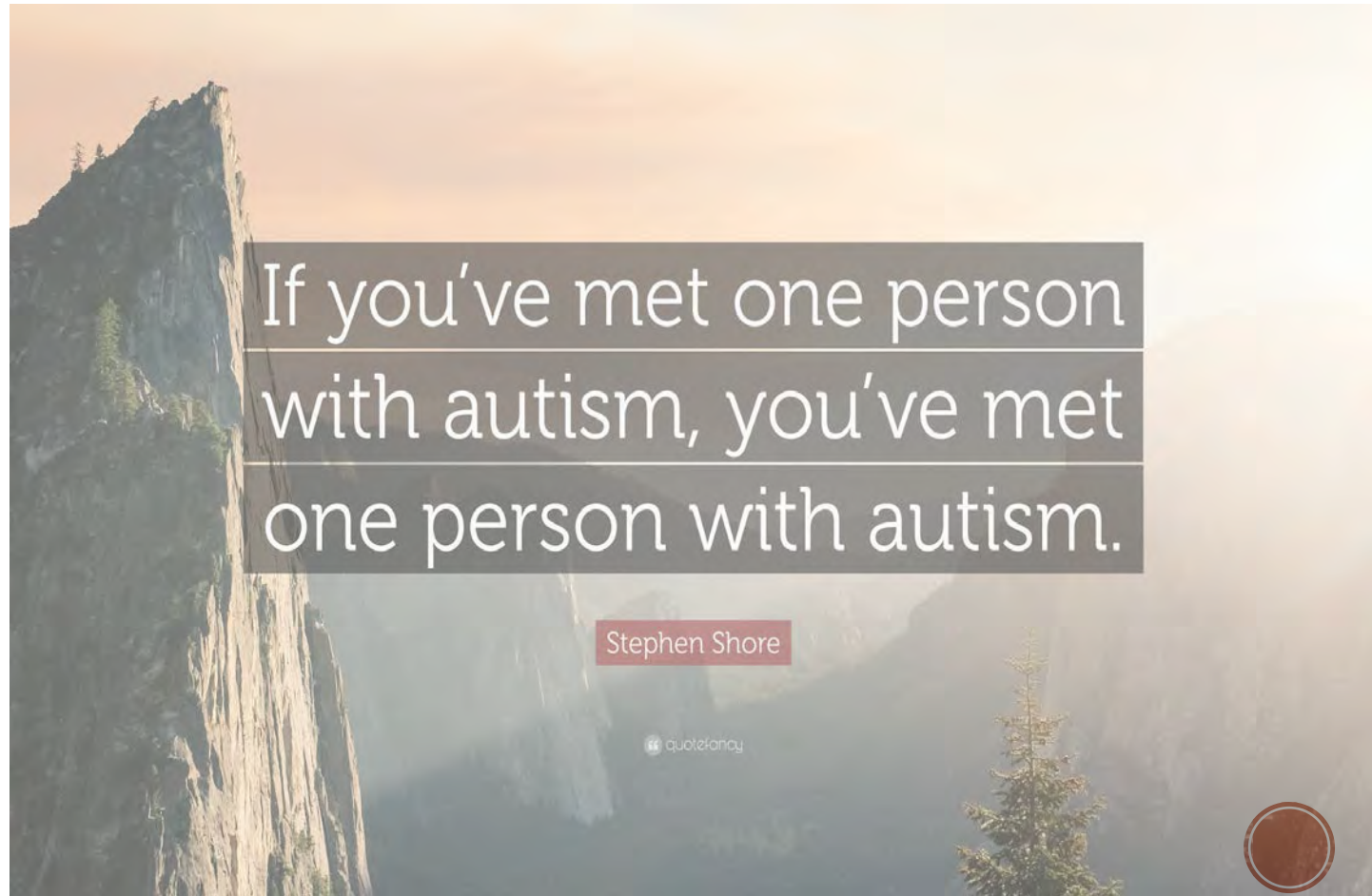
- Transition process
- Tips from parents
- Current statistics
- Applicable resources
- Supports available



Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)



ASD is a developmental disability that can cause significant social, communication and behavioral challenges. (<https://www.cdc.gov/>)



If you've met one person
with autism, you've met
one person with autism.

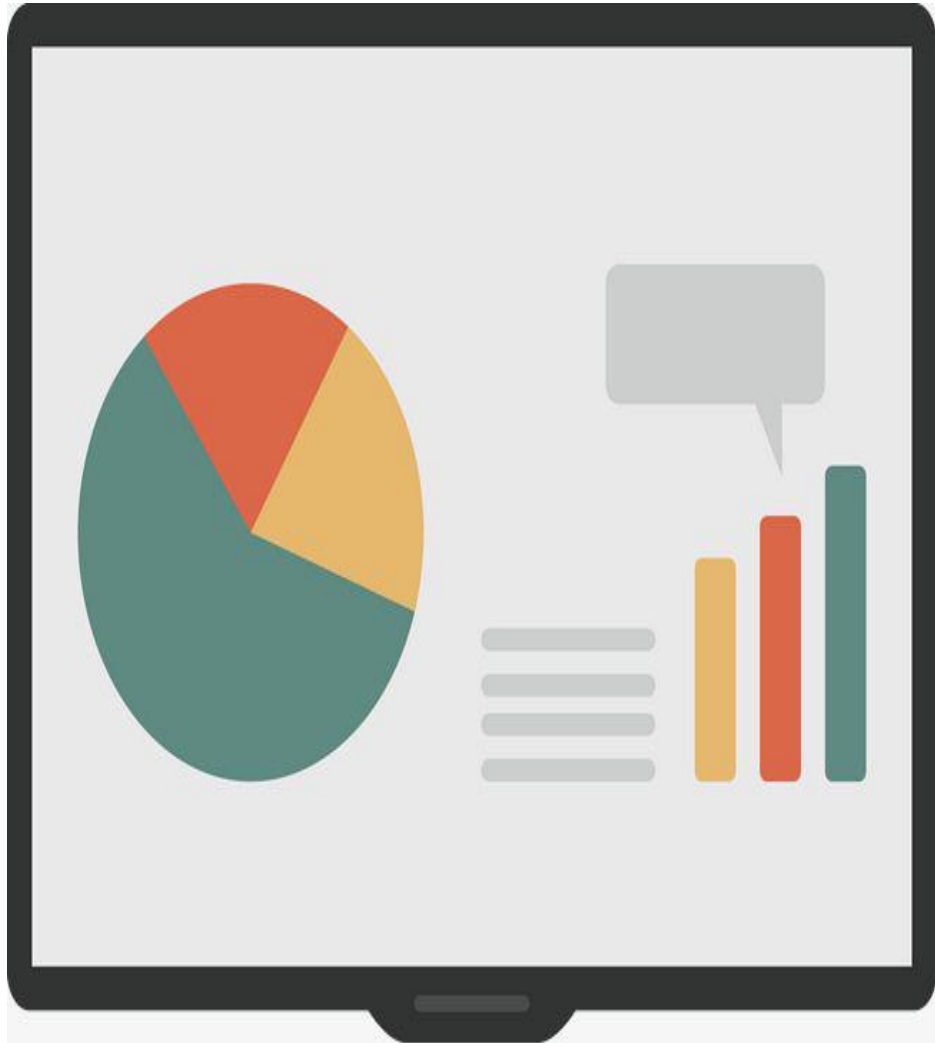
Stephen Shore

quotefancy

Transition Services

~promote movement to postsecondary education, vocational training, integrated employment, and community participation





Statistics

- ❖ 1 in 54 identified with ASD
<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/data.html>
- Drexel University: <https://drexel.edu/autismoutcomes/>
- ❖ 55% of parents participated in IEP transition planning
- ❖ $\frac{1}{4}$ of high school students did not participate in IEP planning
- ❖ Over 60% of individuals on the spectrum do not transition to work or continued education within the first 2 years after leaving high school (NAIR, 2015)
- ❖ 14% have paid community based jobs



Introduction.....

Libby Raab and Jennifer Phillips



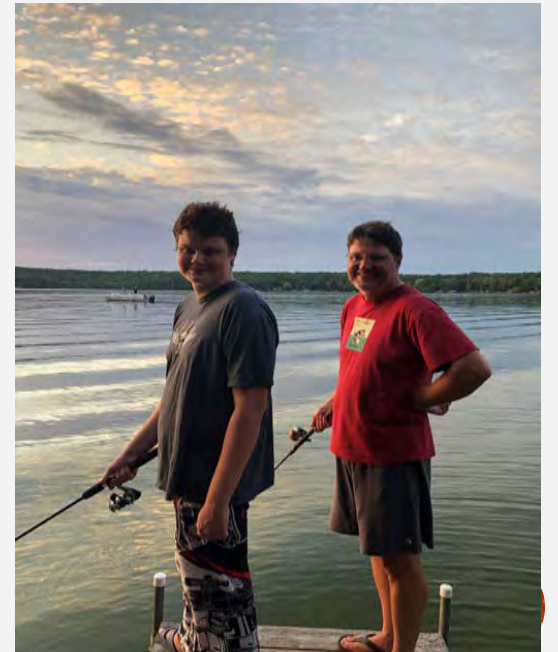
Raab Family

Frank, Libby, Bryce, and Koen



Miller Family

Ed, Jen, George, Lewis & Elliot





Comorbidity

ASD +

Epilepsy

- As many as **one-third** of people with autism have epilepsy (seizure disorder).

ADHD

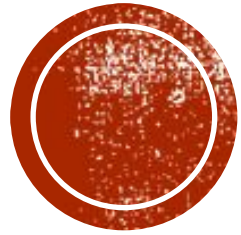
- Attention Deficient Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) affects an estimated **30 to 61 percent** of children with autism.

Anxiety

- Anxiety disorders affect an estimated **11 to 40 percent** of children and teens on the autism spectrum.

Depression

- Depression affects an estimated **7% of children and 26% of adults with autism.**



Poll Questions

Getting to know the audience: position and location

Parent Perspective Survey

❖ Communication -

- 22% know when an accommodation is needed
- 33% know what to NOT say out loud

❖ Self-regulate 44% can

❖ Independent living skills

- over 50% hygiene, organization, safety, meal planning

❖ Social Skills

- 75% appropriate greeting
- 44% take turns speaking
- 38% accept criticism well
- 25% can read and interpret social cues

❖ Self-Advocacy

- 79% ask for help
- 36% articulate when something is difficult
- 29% understand rights to accommodations
- 14% are independent problem solvers

Survey Results

Transition Planning: 89%
feel OVERWHELMED

Obtaining Information:
53% found it difficult

Future Dream:
63% have a dream
58% know the steps to get there



Planning & Direction

- ❖ Begin planning
 - age and thought process
- ❖ College Bound
 - preparations
- ❖ Workforce Bound
 - preparations

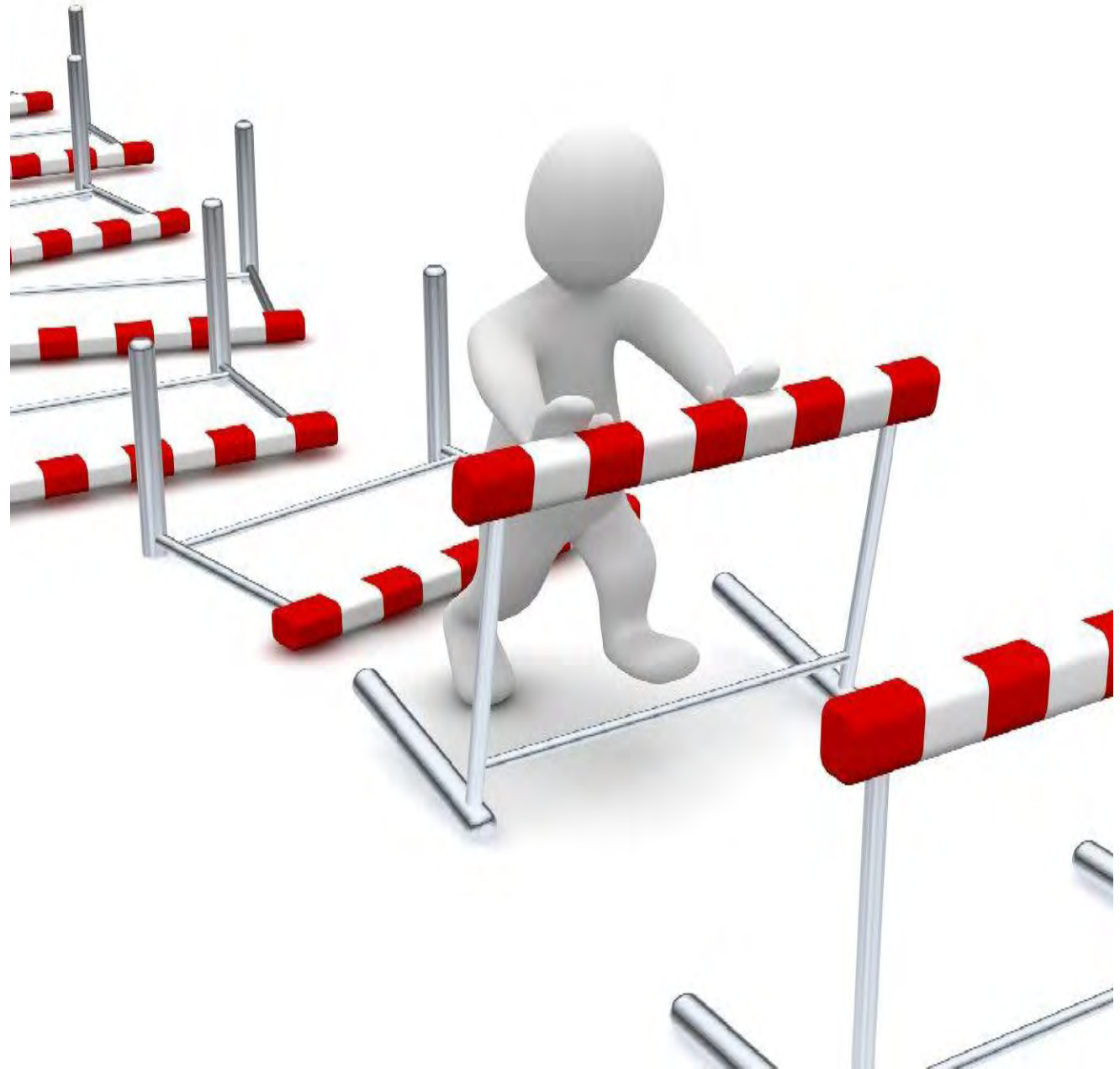




Questions

Barriers

- ❖ Social Communication
- ❖ Behaviors
- ❖ Sensory



Silly Brilliant Caring Mysterious
Interesting Smart Funny Gifted
Exceptional Zany **I** Brave Happy
Intriguing **am** Talented Clever
Sensitive Keen **Intelligent**
Curious **more** Gifted Goofy
Unique **than** Charismatic
Blessed **Amusing**
Smart **Autism** Wise
Humorous Aware Bright Witty
Inspirational Strong Kind Lively
Loving Creative Spirited Human

Disclosure

- ❖ When
- ❖ Who
- ❖ Why
- ❖ Self-advocate



Supports

- ❖ High School
- ❖ Employment
- ❖ College



Guardianship

- ❖ Person Guardianship
 - limited
 - plenary
- ❖ Estate Guardianship

[Guardianship Fact sheet - Office of State Guardian \(illinois.gov\)](#)

BELIEVE IN YOURSELF AS
A SPECIAL NEEDS PARENT



YOU ARE YOUR CHILD'S
BEST THERAPIST AND
ADVOCATE

Resources



AUTISM TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT

autismcollegeandcareer.com

- ❖ When Should I Disclose my Autism
- ❖ Support Changes from High School to College
- ❖ Short Self-Assessment Document
- ❖ Interviewing Tips
- ❖ Interviewing Tips assessment
- ❖ Work Environment Assessment
- ❖ Social Communication in the Workplace



Other Resources


- ❖ **The Autism Program of Illinois TAP:** <https://tap-illinois.org/resources>
 - PUNS information, state and national resources, social stories, websites
- ❖ **Think College:** thinkcollege.net
 - college search, college resource library
- ❖ **The Arc of Illinois:** <https://thearcofil.or>
 - Illinois Lifespan, Ligas Family Advocate, Family Health, Family Transition, Assistive Technology, Training

Our Autism Community



Where we cheer on each
other's loved ones to succeed
as much as our own.
Every milestone is a celebration.





The world needs
that special
gift that only
YOU
have.

-Marie Forleo

www.webnavigatorgal.com

Final Thoughts

Advice



•••••

The kids who
need the most
love will ask
for it in the
most unloving
of ways.

•••••



“

Beneath every behavior is a feeling. And beneath every feeling is a need. And when we meet that need rather than focus on the behavior, we begin to deal with the cause not the symptom.

— Ashleigh Warner
Psychologist

Respond to your children
with love in their worst moments,
their broken moments, their selfish
moments, their lonely moments, their
frustrated moments, their inconvenient
moments because it is in their most
unlovable human moments that
they most need to feel loved.

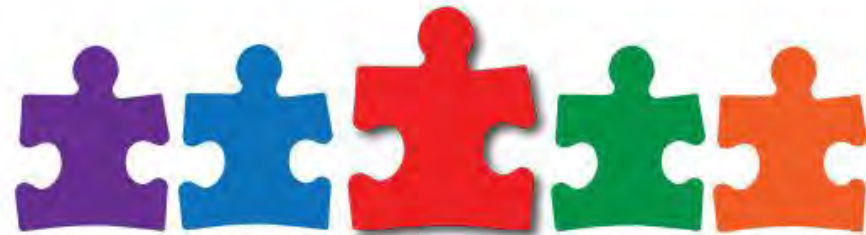
One way to understand
neurodiversity is
to think in terms
of human operating
systems—just because a
PC is not running
Windows doesn't mean
that it's broken.

STEVE SILBERMAN

Thank You!

Please Visit:

AutismCollegeandCareer.com



AUTISM TRAINING AND TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE PROJECT

Contact Carissa for specific information:
clmelod@ilstu.edu

