

Chasing Squirrels

Our Personal Experiences with
Learning Disability and Assistive Technology

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Session Objectives

- Identify two (2) executive function deficits for adults diagnosed with learning disabilities.
- Identify two (2) challenges presented to adults diagnosed with learning disabilities.
- List three (3) AT solutions for workplace accommodations to improve executive function deficits.

Introductions --- Get To Know Us!



L. J.
vs.
Frances V. Phillips



Two

Numbers and Letters, Stand Still!

Up and Over

Up and Over
And in-between,
The Letters,
Words,
Paragraphs
Wash Over Me.
Like a thunderstorm
In Georgia on a summer afternoon Full
of Sound
and
Fury
I am drenched
and overwhelmed
I search the puddles
(now muddy)
I sift and sort
and wash clean the concepts.
I then send these thoughts
to You.
I struggle to be understood
by you
Do you understand?
I am now Clear as Mud.

—Carolyn Phillips

Introductions --- Get To Know Us!





Steps for Executive Function

- Analyze a task
- Plan how to address the task
- Organize the steps needed
- Develop timelines for completing the task
- Adjust or shift the steps, if needed
- Complete the task in a timely way

Discovering Personal Genius:

- A plan-full approach that reveals life themes;
- That presents a path of Discovery;
- That begs Investigation;
- That creates Options;
- That breeds Innovation & Success in personal, educational and career development

◦ Griffin - Hammis



Critical Conversations: Questions to Consider

- How did You see yourself?
 - Strengths
 - Areas of weakness
- Talk with me about your disability.
- Where are You Headed?
 - Got a Map?
- What do You Consider to be Success?
- What is Your Vision for Your Future?
- What is Our Collective Vision for the Future?
- Who is in/needs to be in Your Circle of Support?



Our Challenges

- In the home
- In the community
- In the workplace
- In the school

Consider this -

- My Success relies on
 - Knowing Myself
 - Self-Exploration
 - Who Am I?
 - Learning Style
 - What is My Learning Style?
 - Honestly Exploring –
 - What do I want to Do When I Grow Up?
 - What Assistive Technology do I need to accomplish my Goals?



Consider this -

- My Success relied on
 - Communication about My disAbilities
 - Understanding My disAbility
 - Language is Powerful
 - Talking with Housemates, Partners, Professors and Employers about my specific disAbilities
 - And Listening
 - Understanding My Weaknesses
 - Understanding My Strengths





Our Accommodations

- In the home
- In the community
- In the workplace
- In the school

Consider this -

- My Success relied on
 - Assistive Technology!!
 - Try before you buy – Explore!
 - Training
 - Think across environments –
 - Laptop – Still Need!
 - iPhone – I used 13 apps yesterday and today!
 - iPad – use everyday
 - Organization – Learn Your Style
 - efficiency brings peace
 - Evaluations – Hot Button
 - Working from No/Old/Incorrect info
 - Don't trust everything you read & hear
 - Advocate for an AT Evaluation/Assessment



Consider this -

- My Success relies on
 - Actively Participating in all aspects of my Life Journey
 - AT helps make this possible!
 - Discovery Process
 - Create a Map
 - Plan for Progress!



Consider this -

- My Success relies on
 - Building win-win-win relationships
 - Establishing a solid circle of support
 - Receiving and providing support
 - Diversify your Circle of Friends and Acquaintances
 - It sometimes is “Who you know”
 - BALANCE – Family (Family of choice) and Work and Life



Consider this -

- My Success relies on:
 - Developing a Vision for My Future
 - Created a “Map” and “Vision Board”
 - Personal Goals
 - Strong Relationship with my Family
 - Build a Habitat House (12)
 - Climb the Great Wall of China (2004)
 - Adopt a Child (2! Tucker and Meera)
 - Educational Goals
 - BA from UGA (Took 10 years...)
 - Masters Degree (2005 – M. Ed. UK!)
 - Career Goals
 - Help people through technology (Director of Tools for Life & Pass It On Center @ Georgia Tech)



Consider this -

- My Success relies on
 - Failing
 - Dignity of Failure
 - I learned More from My “Failures” sometimes than my “successes”
 - Give yourself room to fail – and Grow from the experience
 - Learn to Laugh...a lot!
 - Be Optimistic...
 - Evaluate & Evolve!



Discovering Personal Genius

~ Creating a Successful Life Journey



Talk, Listen & Help Others how to:

- Get to Know themselves
- Plan for Success – in school, work, Life!
- Begin with the End in Mind
- Be able to tell thier Story
- Listen & Learn
- Try – Fail & Try again...
- When things get off track - Evaluate and Evolve
- Explore & USE Assistive Technology
- Laugh Much!
- Celebrate Successes!
- Continue to Grow and Discover their own Personal Genius!



Share Your Experiences

- What are your experiences with adults who have learning disability?
 - In their home
 - In the community
 - In the workplace
 - In school

Questions?



Thank you for joining us!

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