

Issues of Identity & Disability Pride, the Importance of Self-Advocacy

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Outline

African Proverb

Tools of Self-
Advocacy

What is Disability-
ADA

Disability Rights

Disability Pride &
Identity

Parental Roles


Professional's Roles

The Child's Role

Benefits/Importance
of Self-Advocacy

Questions for
Parents and
Children

Implications



If you have an
hour to chop a
stack of wood,
spend the first
half hour
sharpening your
axe

Identity and Pride

- What does Identity mean to you
- Do you feel ashamed of your identity? If yes, which one and why? If no, why not?

Our Tools for Self-Advocacy

The ADA

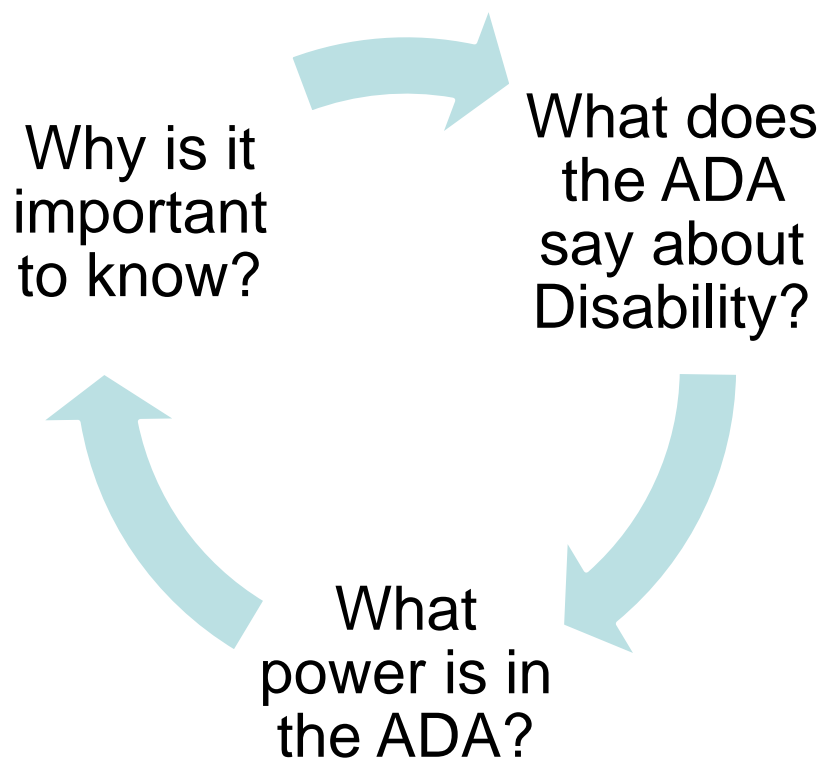
Disability Rights Movements Frameworks

Culturally Responsive Framework

Disability Identity Framework



The Main Tool-ADA



What is a Disability —ADA?

- A Disability is a condition caused by an accident, trauma, genetics or disease which may limit a person's mobility, hearing, vision, speech or mental function.



Know your Rights in the ADA

- Knowing your rights is a very important part of advocating for yourself. If you meet resistance in asking for support, knowing your rights makes the journey short and smooth at times

What does the ADA do?

The ADA prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in several areas,

Employment,

Transportation,

Public accommodations,

Communications, and

Access to State and local government' programs and services.

What is Self-advocacy?

Self-advocacy is the ability to understand your needs and to be able to get those needs met by assertively communicating to others not only what your needs are but **what you need** to get your needs met.

The three steps to build self-advocacy

Understanding yourself and owning your disability.

Knowing your strengths, weaknesses, and needs.

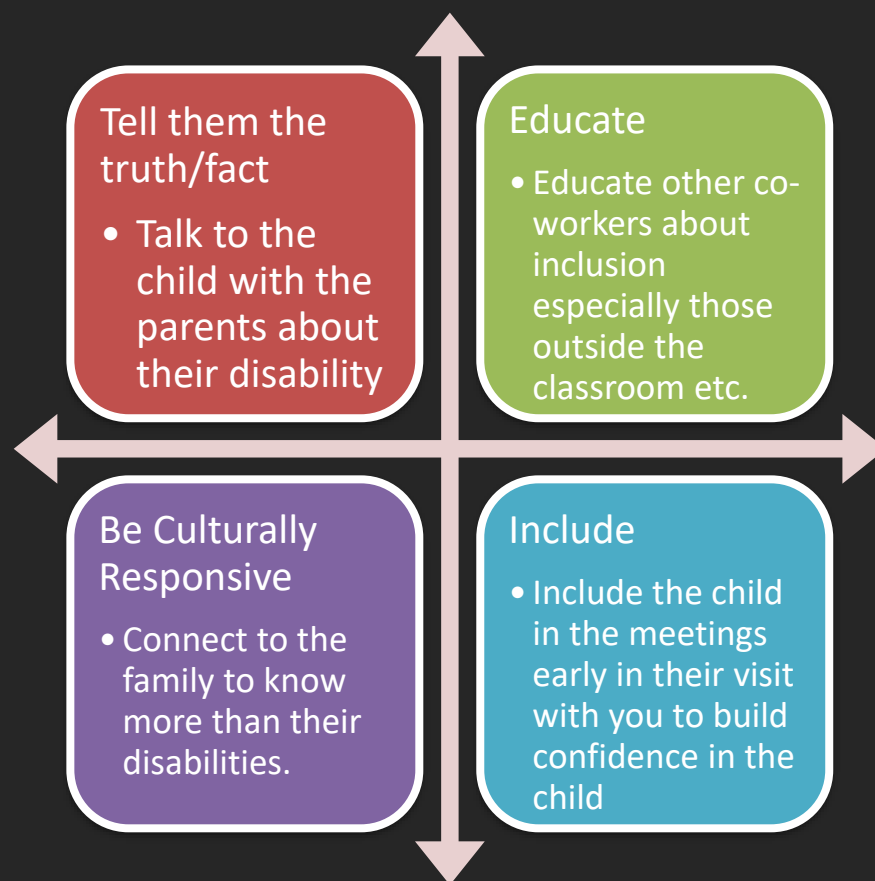
Learning how to ask for what you need



Parent's Role in Self-Advocacy?

- Call a Spade a Spade not a big spoon
- Build their skills
- Support independence
- Encourage belonging and inclusion
- Practice ownership

TCs & other Professionals' Roles in Self-Advocacy



How does the ableist mind do it?

Avoiding /preventing them from open
discussion around disability which
deprives them of their strengths &
weaknesses

We consciously & unconsciously deprive
them from their identity and their
disability pride

We deprive them to live an independent
life

What is the Child's Role in this journey?

1

Understanding
their disability

2

Owning their
disability as
part of their
Identity

3

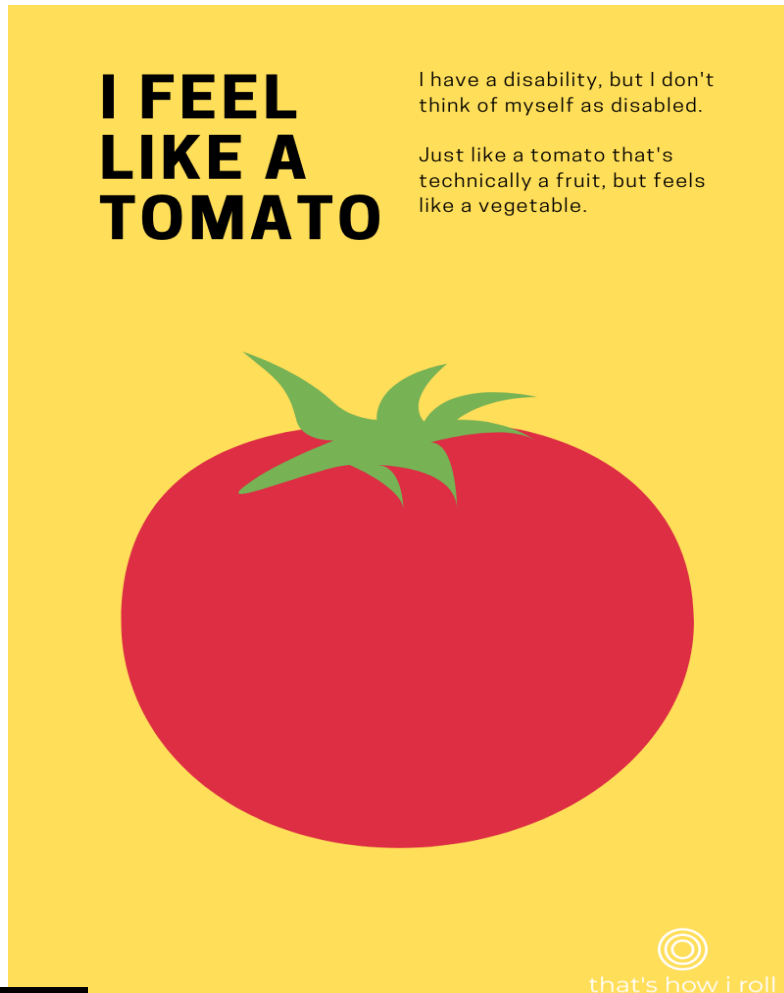
Developing
Disability Pride

A row of five wooden figures on a white surface. The figure in the center is red, while the others are light-colored. The background is a gradient from white to dark grey, separated by a curved line.

Benefits of Self-Advocacy

- Learn how to speak and act for themselves
- Decide what is best for them and taking charge of getting it
- Making their own decisions about their life
- Standing up for their rights as a person
- Teaching others about their rights and responsibilities

Disability Identity



- Why do we use **DISABILITY** and not a different diction?

Check out this scenario:
I have a sickle cell (disability) but, I don't think of myself as disabled. I do not belong to any **DISABILITY GROUP.**

What is Disability Pride?

**Sense of
Ownership &
Accomplishment**



- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TpkwSQQbFEg>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TpkwSQQbFEg>

Questions for parents

How does your child:

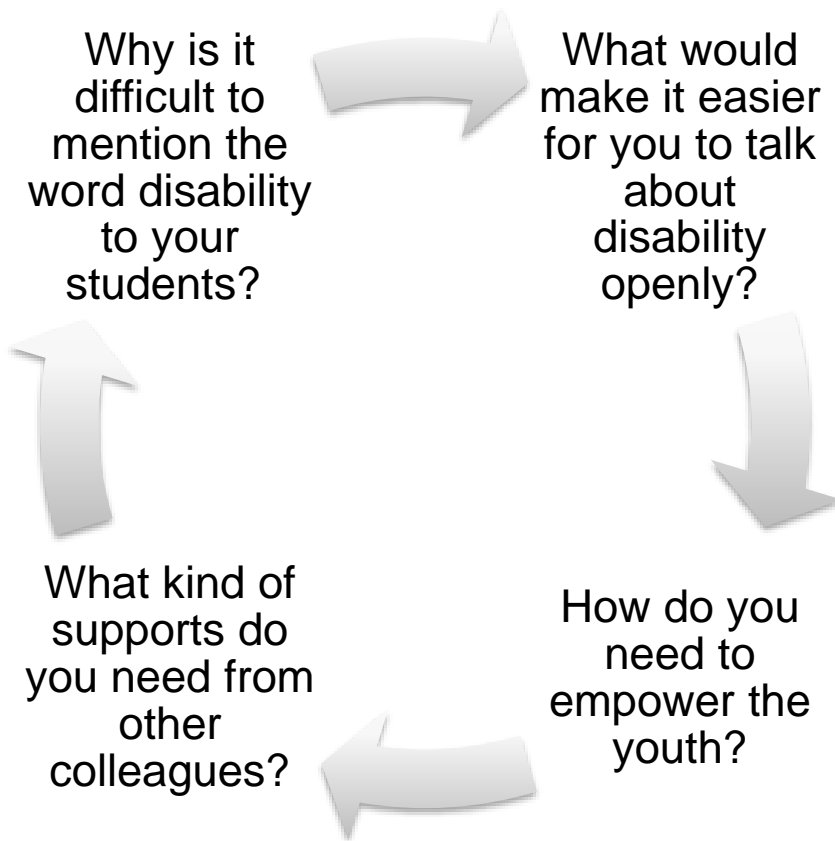
Describe their disability?

Express their needs and advocate for themselves when they visit the hospital, the community, school etc?

Explain to a teacher what their needs are to have reasonable accommodation in their IEP or 504 plans etc?

Some Digestives for Professionals

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=omQKcQca_pl



Why we do what we do



- Why do we need to own our identity?
- Why do we need to project disability positively?
- Why do we do self-advocacy and systems advocacy?

There is pride
in knowing
one's identity





VCIL

Vermont Center for
Independent Living

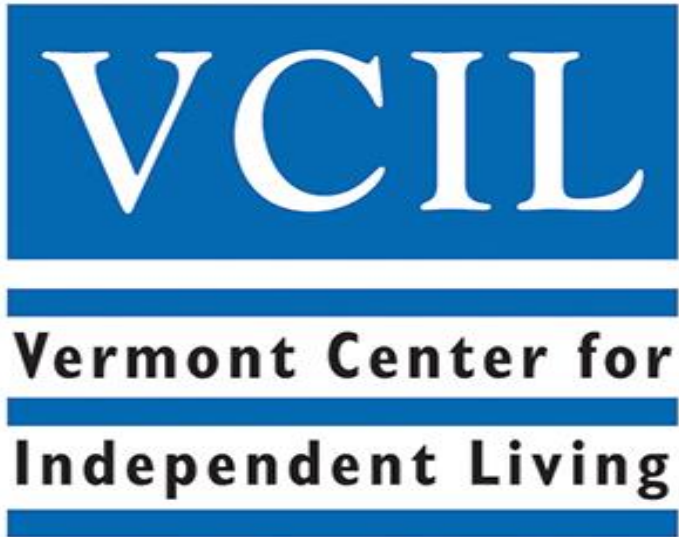
Thank you!

Questions, Comments, and
Suggestions?



HireAbility
VERMONT

Resources



- Vermont Center for Independent Living
1-800-639-1522
- Vermont Human Rights Commission
1-800-416-2010
- Vermont Legal Aide
1-800-889-2047
- U.S. Department of Justice –
https://www.ada.gov/ada_title_11.htm
- ADA.gov
<https://www.ada.gov/archive/t2hlt95.htm>
- New England ADA Center