

Paving the Way to Self-Determination

A program for families of children with Developmental Disabilities



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www.dnswm.org



Our “WHY”:

The Unplanned Journey

The Center for Parent Information & Resources refers to the early days after a child’s diagnosis as “the unplanned journey.” Parents may find themselves wondering about their child’s future.

Parents of Transition Age Students



“What will my child do after high school?”

“What will my young adult do all day while I work?”

“How do I help my young adult find employment?”

“What resources are out there?”

“HELP!”

~ Multiple Parents at the end of their child’s high school career

Transition Age Students

“Had I known the impact guardianship was going to have on me long-term I would’ve definitely spoken up for myself.”

~Bryan, Disability Network Summer Intern



Disparities in Employment

EMPLOYMENT RATE FOR INDIVIDUALS...	
With A Disability	Without A Disability
22.5% (21.3% in 2022) Highest employment rate since data was first collected in 2008	65.8% (65.4% in 2022)
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR INDIVIDUALS...	
With A Disability	Without A Disability
7.2%	3.5%

Source: U.S. Dept. of Labor Statistics



Paving the Way to Self-Determination

What Is It?

“Independent Living isn’t doing things by yourself. It’s being in control of how things are done.”

~ Judy Heumann



Partner Agencies



Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council



Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council





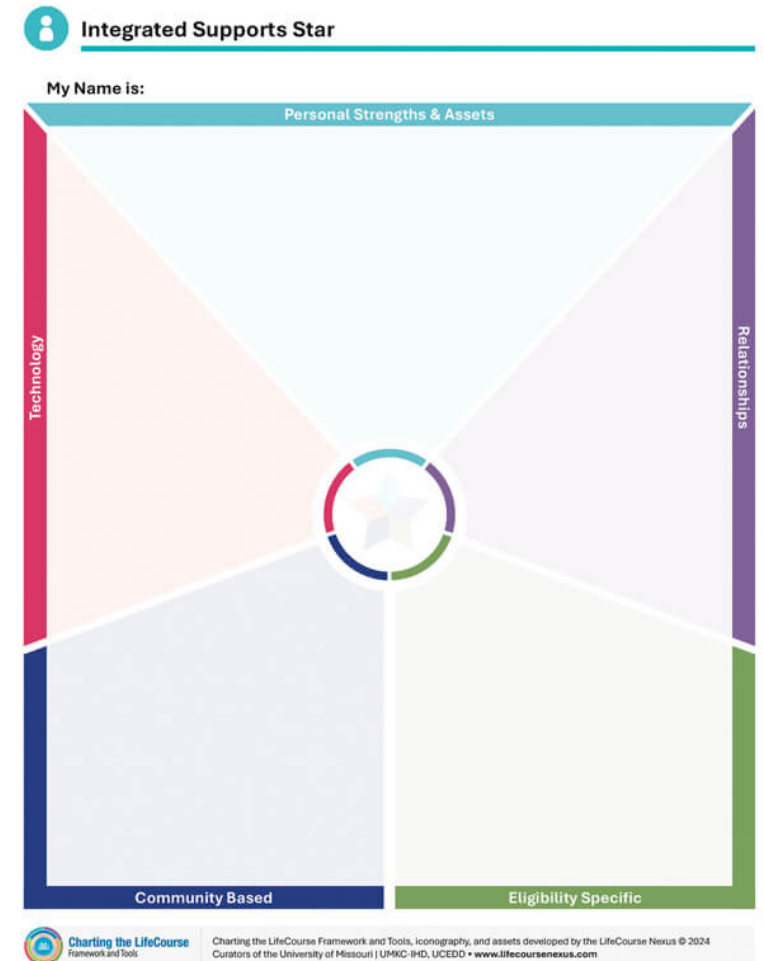
Michigan Alliance for Families

Welcome to our **Community** of Learning

Charting the LifeCourse is designed to be used for your own life, for your family members, or in the work you do. The framework and tools will help you organize your ideas, vision, and goals, as well as problem-solve, navigate, and advocate for supports.



Charting the LifeCourse™



Alternatives to Guardianship



Topics

Accommodation Requests

IEPs / 504 Plans

Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies

Sensory Play

Building Resilience

Instilling Disability Pride

Early Employment Skill Building

Social Security Benefits

Neurodiversity

MiABLE Accounts

Problem-Solving & Decision Making

Allyship

The Power Disability Language

Supported Decision Making

Importance of Sexuality Education

The Power of Connection

Charting the LifeCourse™

Self-Directed Services

Getting Started: Parent Advisors

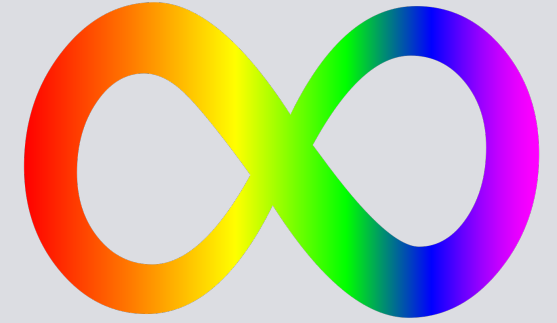




Topic Highlights

Understanding Social Security Benefits

Topic Highlights



Neurodiversity

I look different when I listen

I may stare into space to focus on what I hear

Rocking or quietly fidgeting keeps me calm and focused

Sitting oddly may be more comfortable



A blank expression means I'm thinking

Biting a rubber toy is better than biting myself

If I'm disrupting others, please gently talk to me

Image by [MissLunaRose12](#)

Topic Highlights

Building Resilience

The 5-4-3-2-1 Grounding Technique

Ease your state of mind in stressful moments.



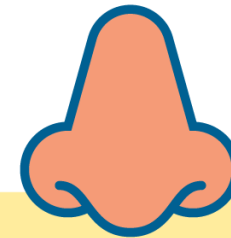
Acknowledge **5** things that you can see around you.



Acknowledge **4** things that you can touch around you.



Acknowledge **3** things that you can hear around you.



Acknowledge **2** things that you can smell around you.



Acknowledge **1** thing that you can taste around you.

#DeStressMonday

DeStressMonday.org

DESTRESS
MONDAY

Topic Highlights

Instilling Disability Pride

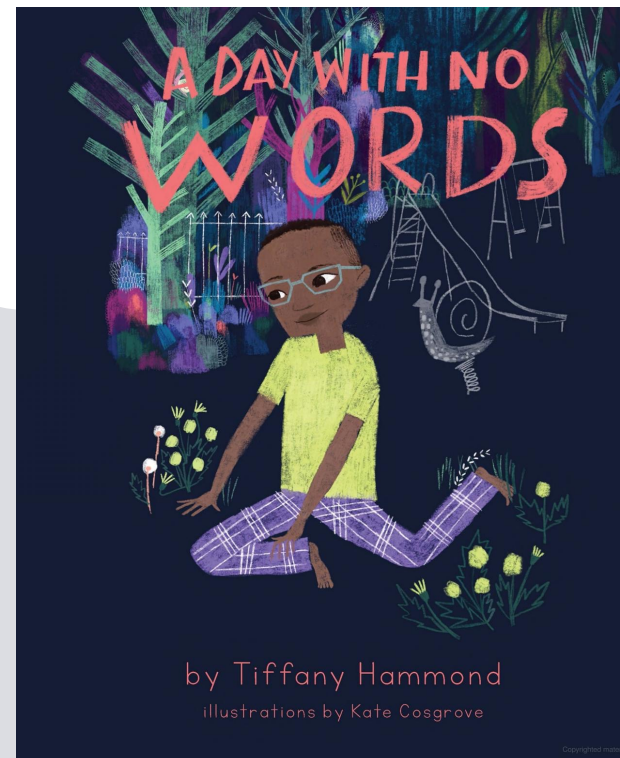
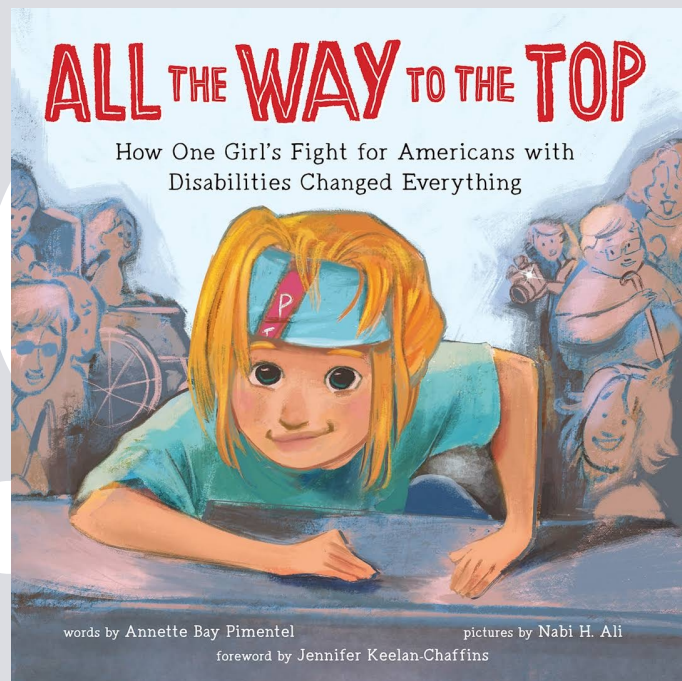
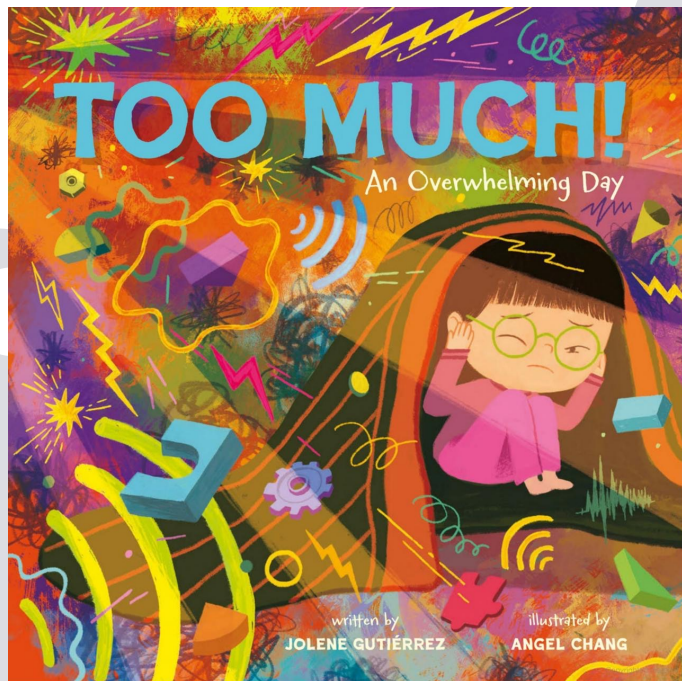


Topic Highlights

IEP / 504



Michigan Alliance for Families
information, support, and education

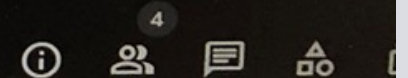
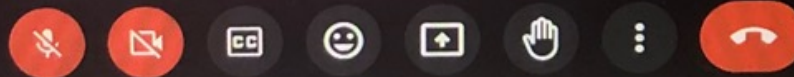


Self-Advocacy Story Time

Zoom / Google Meet storytelling

Self-Advocacy Story Time

A Anne Kooy (Presenting)



Outreach

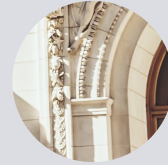
Schools

Libraries

CILs

Service Organizations

Michigan Alliance for Families



Spanish Translation / Traducción al español



TIMESHEET
Authorized timesheets must be received by Monday before 11:30am each v

EMPLOYER: _____
CLIENT COMPANY: _____
EMPLOYEE: _____
WEEK ENDING DATE: _____

DAY	START TIME	FINISH TIME
example	09:00	17:30
Monday	8:00	17:00
Tuesday	7:30	16:00
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Friday		
Saturday		
Sunday		

certify that the total hours shown are true correct, and should be invoiced accordingly

TOTAL HR
Wages

Staff Hours (aka: man hours/woman hours/person hours)

Grand Total (so far)...

3,927.5

Evaluation & Measurement



SURVEY RESPONSE RATES

NUMBER REGISTERED	85
NUMBER ATTENDED	52
NUMBER OF PARENTS / FAMILY	30
NUMBER OF SURVEY RESPONSES	11

Feedback From Attendees:

"I obtained additional information to include in my toolkit to further advocate for my child" (IEP – A Closer Look).

"I loved discussing this topic with the benefit of addressing employment early. Appreciated the presenter sharing personal experiences with her son" (How to Prepare Your Child for Employment).

"I'm always energized after a presentation with Disability Network and Michigan Alliance for Families. This presentation was engaging, informative, fun, and focused. I definitely plan to attend many more presentations as it increases my confidence in advocating for my children and me." (The Power of Disability Language).

"Very informational. I feel very confident now knowing when to apply and what to expect. Thank you so much for all the information." (Understanding Social Security Benefits).

"I like how she explained how important it is for kids to have sensory breaks and connect the 5 senses. Very helpful to parents." (The Benefits of Sensory Play).

Other Successes

Nearly **1,000** adults have attended Paving the Way training sessions to date.

700 of these adults were parents and family members of children with developmental disabilities. The remaining 300 were professionals and allies.

600 Children have been reached through Self-Advocacy Story Time

32% of participants report being from rural areas (slightly higher than anticipated).

Lessons Learned

Technology Lessons

Partner Agency Lessons

Outreach Lessons





The Finish Line

The program will culminate in an “on-demand” virtual library of trainings (YouTube) and an online ‘handbook’ of state and local resources.

Questions?



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