

The Inclusion Bus



What does the Research Say?

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are enrolled in
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curricular classes

are in proximity to
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in learning with
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have purposeful
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Student Infrastructure

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Teacher & Staffing Infrastructure

Student Infrastructure

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School & District Infrastructure

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5 Minutes

1. What are your strengths?
2. What is a possible next step?

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Type in the Chat Box:

Finish this statement:

Presuming Competence is...



Mr. W Commercial

pre·sume com·petence

pri' zōōm/ 'kämpetens/

To presume competence is to acknowledge that all individuals have the ability to learn, to communicate, to participate in their own way. It means that we provide opportunities by creating accessible & inclusive spaces.

To presume competence is to respect the value of human diversity.

Not presuming competence is to actively harm.

facebook.com/AutismWomensNetwork

PRESUMING COMPETENCE

is an attitude—one that shapes actions in the classrooms and includes a default assumption that the student is capable.



BROOKES

From *Picture Inclusion!* by Whitney H. Rapp, Katrina L. Arndt, & Susan M. Hildenbrand

Presumption of Competence

by Donnie TC Denome

(they/them or xe/xem)

Presuming competence means we presume people are experts on their own bodies and minds and know what they need, even if they can't express it. Or, if they don't know what they need, they are still experts and should still be consulted and assisted in making a decision, not have a decision made for them.

SCHOOLS FOR FREEDOM

@schoolsforfreedom

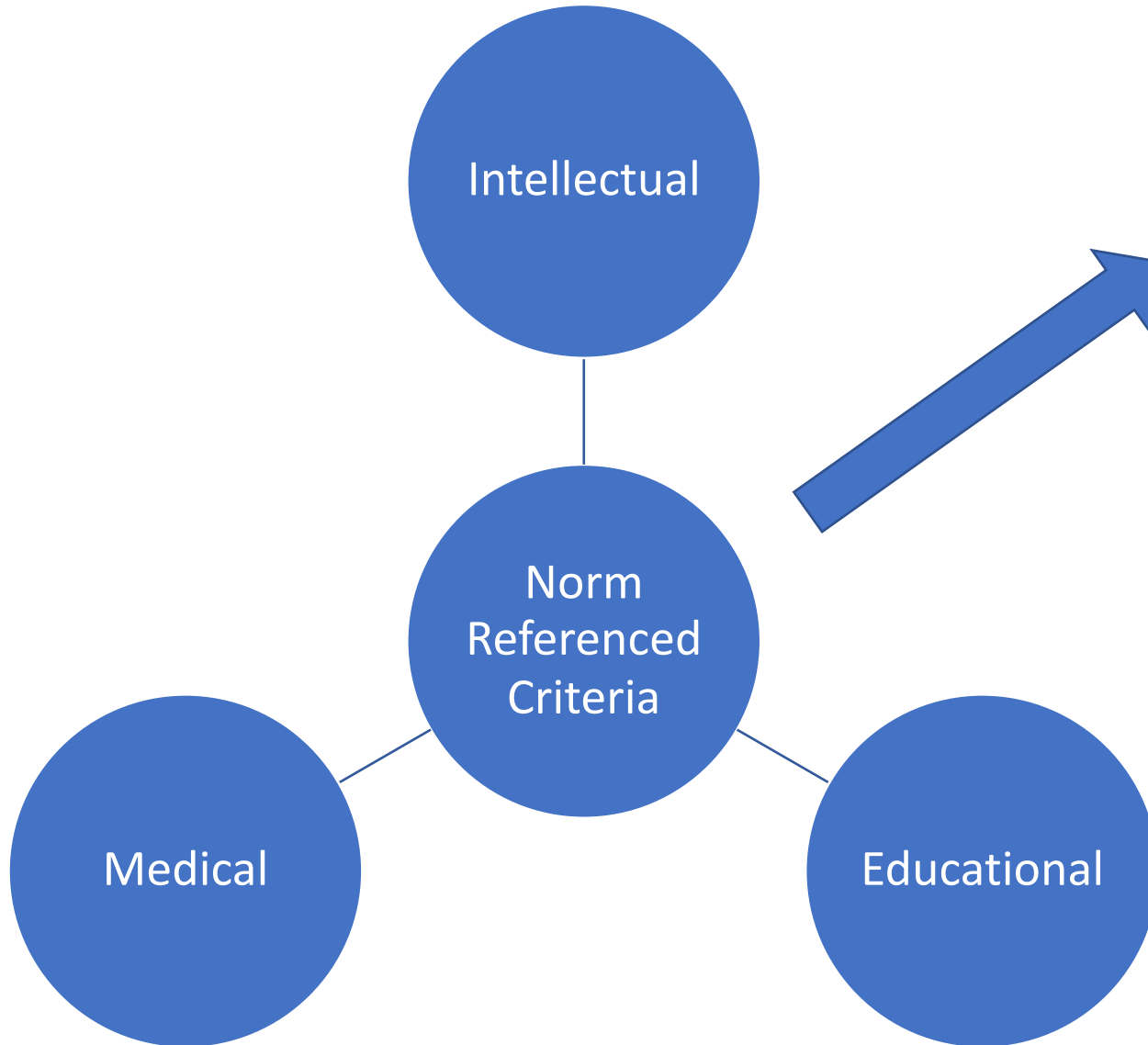
Presuming competence is nothing less than a Hippocratic oath for educators.

Douglas Biklen

ollibeAN

What is Presuming Competence?

What do we think when we think of someone with a disability?



- Measure deficits, not strengths
- Capture responses verbally/ written/ physically



- If students can't express in the way being captured



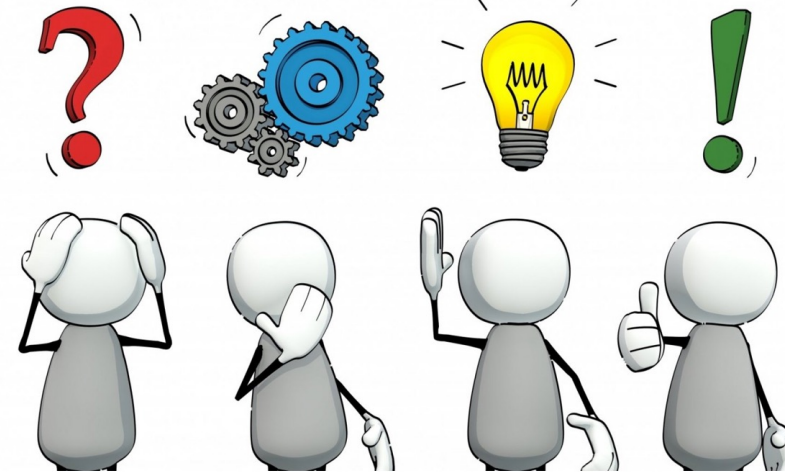
- It leads to the perceptions that "they can't"

What happens when there is a perception that students “can’t”

We **assume** that students with disabilities **will not benefit** from being in **general education** classes



We **assume** that students with disabilities **are unable to learn** much curriculum



So we put students with disabilities into **programs outside** of the general education curriculum/classroom for the majority of their day learning “**life skills**”

Even if students are enrolled in a class, they are **still not often expected to access** the general education curriculum, and focus is placed on social and/or **behaviour skills aimed to normalize them**



Students with and without disabilities **do not get** the opportunity **to learn with** and from **each other**



Teachers **do not get** to see what students with disabilities are **capable of**



Which would **lead to a shift in perception** in the competence of disability

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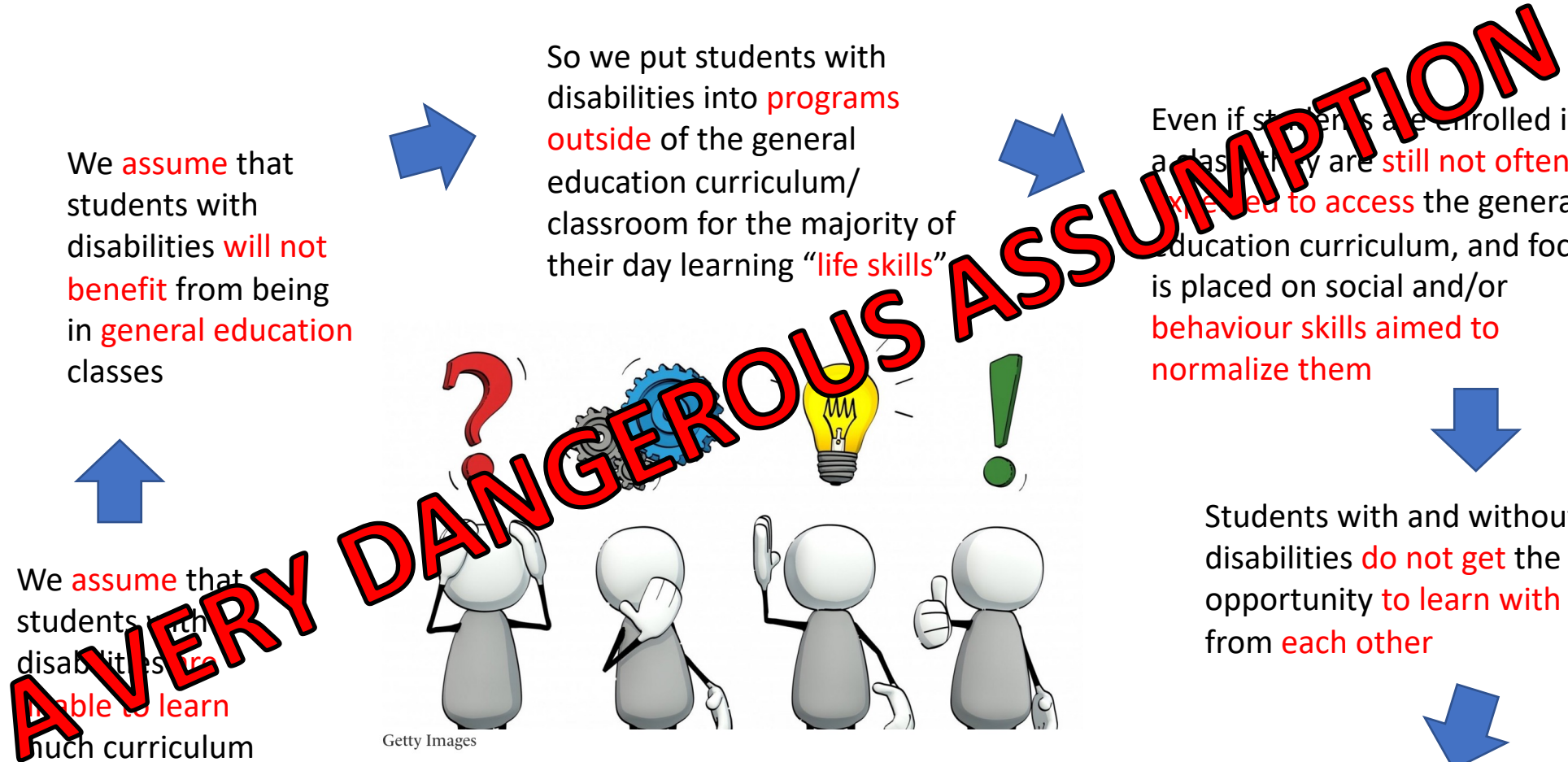
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Why is Presuming Competence Important?

Changing our mindset about disability will change how we respond and make decisions about educational programming.

Access to general education curriculum, general education peers and general education classrooms promote student learning, inclusion, achievement and quality of life after school.

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THE LEAST DANGEROUS ASSUMPTION

Why is Presuming Competence Important?

“Even if **we are wrong** about a students’ **capabilities** to learn general education curriculum with their peers, **the consequences** of that presumption **being wrong** are **not as dangerous** as the **alternative.**”

Cheryl Jorgenson

How can we Presuming Competence?

- Students with disabilities so often **need** to “**prove**” that they can learn **before given access** to general education
- Biklen & Burke suggest:
 - Rather than proving their ability, presuming competence is **assuming that all** students have **ability** in any and **all places**

How can we Presuming Competence?

What the literature says:

- Focus more on **strengths, interests, abilities** and **need** and less on deficits
- Provide students with a **means to communicate** other than words (visuals, gestures, voice)
- Include **academic curricular goals** on student IEPs that reflect their enrolled courses and subjects areas **similar to their peers**

How can we Presuming Competence?

- What Self Advocates say:
 - **Talk to me**, not my support dog, or my support staff, or my parents
 - **Do not** call me “**low functioning**” or refer to me as a developmental age, E.g., “**like a 2-year-old**”
 - Use **age-appropriate** tone of voice, inflection, vocabulary, and conversation topics when **interacting** with me
 - **Respect my privacy** when talking about my personal care, medical needs and/or personal and sensitive information

Presuming Protentional

“I thought I would explain that I will be using the term **presume potential** instead of presume competence. I will quote AAC specialist Kate Ahern as she does an amazing job of explaining that this small wording difference can change the outcome for many students. When we say presume competence people might give someone an AAC system and expect them to magically use it, without any real teaching. But when we say **presume potential** we don't give a pass to others, we are saying, like all people, this person has the capacity to learn and grow, they aren't static and they won't magically know how to do things they haven't learned or been taught. **Presume potential** puts the onus of teaching/learning on the teachers, therapists and caregivers instead of expecting the disabled individual to already know how to do things without education. **Presume potential** is inclusion in the expectation of learning we place on ALL people. **Presume potential** means we don't dismiss anyone because we think their diagnosis means they can't learn or because we think they are low. Instead we believe that just like all children and adults their brains are plastic and they have boundless potential with the right teaching, supports and high expectations.”



Is Presuming Competence Enough?

- Nope!
- Now we need to **focus** on the **decisions** that we make that are **based on our perceptions** and assumptions about students

Next Session

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Why does **place** matter?

- Historically, Individual Education Plans (IEPs) have **not** been connected to **place** and have historically been implemented in **one place** (self contained or segregated setting)
- **Place** connects individuals to others who are in the **community** to learn with
- **Place** can have a role in teaching and learning
- **Place** can impact (and help navigate) barriers to learning
- **Place** connects to an **inclusive vision** – the more places an individual is included in, with belonging, the better!

Location vs. Place



Existence vs. Belonging

Place Based Planning



How do we increase the places (enrollment)
for Students with Disabilities to be included?

Understanding the Role of Place



Guiding Conditions & Structures of Inclusion: Place

ALL students are enrolled in & attending grade-based curricular classes with their peers

- Inclusive environments, more so than segregated, provide more opportunities to:
 - engage in interesting and age-appropriate curriculum
 - interact with nondisabled peers
 - access universal supports
 - negotiate expectations of settings as one does in daily life
- Increase in personal wellbeing, fewer absences from school, increased motivation to learn, higher school completion, and better outcomes after high school in the areas of employment and independent living

Guiding Conditions & Structures of Inclusion: Place

ALL students are enrolled in & attending grade-based curricular classes with their peers

Finding the Balance for Enrollment

- **Strategic** Planning
 - Students are in classrooms with diverse peers
 - Students are working within the same curriculum as peers
 - Students have a **Replacement Curricular Goal** at an accessible level
- **Explicit** Planning
 - Students can be in smaller classrooms/groups with their identity peers
 - Students are working on cognitively appropriate or developmental goals (i.e. literacy, numeracy, life skills, OT, PT, SLP, toileting, eating, work experience etc.)
 - Explicit goals can still be met in inclusive classroom settings
 - Students have a **Supplemental Curricular Goal** at a developmental level

Guiding Ratios for Inclusive Program Planning for Students with Intellectual Disabilities

Grade	% Strategic Instruction/ day	% Explicit Instruction/ day
K-7	100%	Max 20%
7-9	75 %	25 %
10-11	50 %	50 %
12 – 12+	25%	75%

Amy's Enrolled Courses: Grade 8

Block	Term 1	Term 2
A	Support Block (OT/PT/SLP) (Literacy/Numeracy)	Hum 8 (non-choice academic)
Break		
B	Sci 8 or Math 8 (Choice academic)	PE 11/12 (non-choice elective)
C	Fine Art Rotation (non- choice elective)	Support Block (OT/PT/SLP) (Literacy/Numeracy)
Lunch		
D	Hum 8 (non-choice academic)	Tech Rotation (non-choice elective)

Amy's Enrolled Courses: Grade 11

Block	Term 1	Term 2
A	Support Block (OT/PT/SLP) (Literacy/Numeracy)	English 11 (choice academic)
Break		
B	Bio 11 (Choice academic)	PE 11/12 (non-choice elective)
C	Textiles 11/12 (Choice elective)	Support Block (OT/PT/SLP) (Literacy/Numeracy)
Lunch		
D	Work Experience (Volunteer)	Work Experience (PAID)

Place Based Planning the ICBIEP



How do we increase the **places** where a student feels belonging?

How do we increase the places (enrollment and attendance) for Students with Disabilities in inclusive classes?

Strategy: Place Alignment Planner

- For students who are **not enrolled** in any places
- For students who are **partially enrolled** in some places
- For students who are **partially attending** some places
- For students who are **existing**, but not belonging in an inclusive place
- **NOT** for students who are already enrolled and attending successfully

Place Alignment Planner: Elementary

Student: Vinaj P.		Grade: 2	Enrolled Class: Ms. Yee Grade 2	Start Date: October 15, 2020	Next Check in Date: Nov. 30, 2020
Plan is Aligned to:		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Academics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Electives	<input type="checkbox"/> In-School Activities	<input type="checkbox"/> Out-of-School Activities
Student interest and/or Family Priority	Possible Place Opportunities (Typical Peer Opportunities)	Aligned	Next Step	As soon as Possible:	Not a priority at this time:
		What this means: Student is enrolled and attending Next Step: Inclusive IEP Goals for Place	What this means: Student is enrolled and attending sometimes Next Step: Plan for and prepare place (Target teachers & peers)	What this means: Student is enrolled, not yet attending Next Step: Plan for new place (Target student & family)	What this means: Student is not enrolled or attending and receiving supplemental programming Next Step: Re-evaluate student needs at next check in
	Outside before school			•	
	Arrival & morning meeting			•	
•	Reader's workshop	•			
•	Recess		•		
•	Literacy & Math Centers		•		
•	Math Workshop				Explicit Numeracy
	Lunch			•	
	Art				SLP Support
•	Music			•	
•	Gym		•		
	Science/Socials				Autism Support

Place Alignment Planner – Middle and Secondary

Student: Sharice L.		Enrolled Classes:		Start Date:		Next Check in Date:	
Grade: Grade 11		Grade 11 Cohort		Feb. 6, 2019		Oct. 1, 2019	
Plan is Aligned to: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Academics <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Electives <input type="checkbox"/> In-School Activities <input type="checkbox"/> Out-of-School Activities							
Student interest and/or Family Priority		Aligned	Next Step	As soon as Possible:	Not a priority at this time:		
		What this means: Student is enrolled and attending Next Step: Inclusive IEP Goals for Place	What this means: Student is enrolled and may or may not be attending Next Step: Plan for and prepare place (Target teachers & peers)	What this means: Student is not yet enrolled or attending Next Step: Plan for new place (Target student & family)	What this means: Student is not enrolled or attending/ replacement. programing offered Next Step: Re-evaluate student needs at next check in		
•	Homeroom (cross grade)	•					
	Academic: Social Studies 11			•			
	Academic: Science 11			•			
	Academic: Math 11						Work Experience
•	Academic: English 11	•					
•	Elective (chosen): Art 11/12		•				
•	Elective (chosen): Band 11/12	•					
	French 11						OT/PT time
•	Physical Education 11		•				

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