Raising the Bar

Workshop for Parents of Preschoolers



Vision Statement for Your Child's Future

What is a vision statement?

The vision statement is the big picture. It's the goal, the destination. It's what you dream of for your child until they are old enough to express and chase their own dreams.

So, think big, don't be afraid of what may right now feel like a BHAG – big, hairy, audacious goal. It is not about a diagnosis, it does not include intervention, treatment, and therapy. Your vision reflects what all of us want for our children, for example: happiness, health and wellbeing, friends and family, a quality education, a meaningful job, active contribution to community, and a safe and comfortable home. It is about the kind of life you want for your child and the kind of person you want your child to become. We hope that you see inclusive education as a core element of your vision for your child, setting them up for a regular/ordinary life path rather than the 'special' segregated path.



Think deeply about your child's strengths, qualities, interests, and preferences when answering these questions:

1. What kind of person do you want your child to be?

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2. What kind of life do you want for you child?

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3. What would inclusion mean for your child and how would it impact their life?

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Tips for writing your vision statement:

- Speak from the heart
- Think about the regular/ordinary life path for a child without disability
- Don't focus on "what is realistic" - dream big and get excited for the life your child will create
- Remember the BHAG
- Let go of your fear, peel off the layers of bubble wrap and imagine
- Don't get caught up in the 'how'
- Keep it broad - the younger your child, the broader the vision statement will be
- Consider all parts of community and how you want your child to participate
- It's not a specific accomplishment or finite end goal
- It's not a SMART goal
- Visions are not constrained by time or measurability, this is not a performance review
- Keep it focused on your child
- Have them participate as much as possible
- Include action words: participate, contribute, experience, learn, grow, develop, maximize
- Hold it lightly, it's a guiding light
- Circumstances change and so we must adapt
- Revise and update your vision every year

Other tips you have picked up from other parents:



Vision Statement

Use your responses to the previous questions in coming up with a vision statement for your child's future. Remember this is a starting point. It doesn't have to be worded perfectly and you can use dot points; just put your thoughts right now down on paper even if it feels big, hairy, and audacious!

My vision for .....

(Your child's name)

Purple Orange