Table Topics: KAND in Adulthood
Speakers: Janie Desmond & Betsy MacMichael
August 17, 2019
Leaning In To Possibilities

KAND in Adulthood

Jane Desmond & Betsy MacMichael
Kif1A Family & Scientific Engagement Conference
New York City
August 2019
Who are we?

• Every child is different, with both challenges and gifts
• Every parent/couple/family is different
• What does the future hold?
  • Getting out and about?
  • Communicating with others?
  • Eating on one’s own?
  • Telling jokes... playing games.....graduating preschool....
  • Sleeping through the night?
  • Moving away? College? One’s own neighborhood? Work?
Janie at two years old
Janie at 8
Jane at 23
What happened in between?

• Person first
• Anger > understanding about others
• Our mantra
• Sense of humor (whose?)
• Think of abilities in different terms
• Whole person, not medical condition
• Perspective
• Contribution
What next?
the dignity of risk
Mom dreaming (or awake) at 3am
Supported decisionmaking > Informed choice

Empowerment with a buffer
Immediate, emergency type choices
daily choices, daily compromises....

Food shop, daily meal choices...

Parent’s, staff, roommates choice or my choice?
Keeping some autonomy from roommate
Janie in 2011                            J&S in 2019

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qEZBBKxJ2qY
• Excerpt time permitting from: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qEZBBKxJ2qY
Smart technology and apartment living
Six Key components to making this work:

1. Neighbors, friends, family who are physically nearby
2. Good roommate
3. Opportunities to grow through Risk and experience
4. Trusted advisors to help make decisions
5. City environment full of things to do
6. Some privilege and advantages
Leaning in to Possibilities