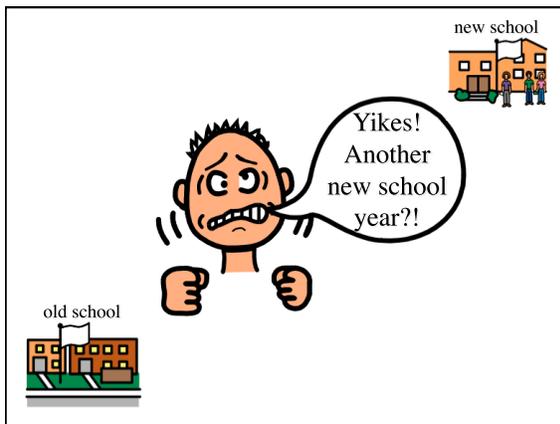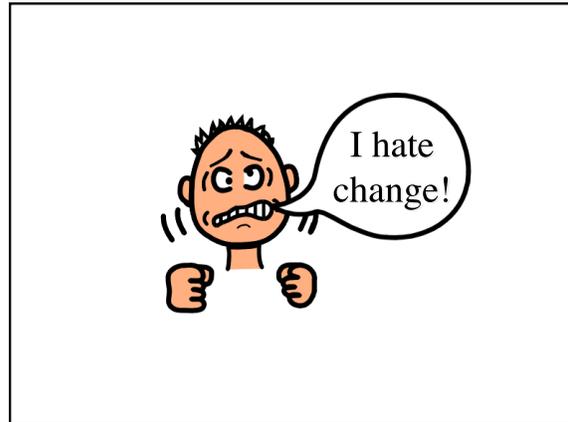Who Am I?

Computer Designing a Dynamic Student Portfolio

Kimberly S. Voss
Parent/Founder

Ashley's Mom, Inc.

Tulsa, Oklahoma
ashleysmom.com

Medical History
- family history
- previous surgeries
- current medications
- allergies

IEP
- annual goals and objectives
  …but nothing about learning styles
- assistive aides and services
  …but nothing about how they are used
- results of standardized testing
  …but no measure of human potential

"Mary's" Previous IEP
- statement of strengths:
  "fine motor skills, good attendance, parental involvement, eagerness to please."
- statement of weaknesses:
  "pre-writing skills, cognitive skills, language skills, self-help skills, personal/social skills, receptive/expressive communication skills, gross motor tasks requiring balance and equilibrium reactions."

"We are beginning to rehearse for the Santa Sing-Along program. "Mary" enjoys hearing the songs. She is unable to sing with us or perform the hand motions. She is welcome to sit in with us for rehearsals in the classroom, however, she will not be included in the actual performance."

On 8/24/98, Note Home to "Mary's" Mother

"Here is a list of signs for the week – Daddy/Mommy/home/more/sit"

• signing "more" since 10/10/88; saying since 10/10/88

• signing "Daddy" since 11/3/90; saying since 1/16/89

• signing "sit" since 4/12/91; but had never verbalized

• signing "Mommy" since 7/16/91; saying since 10/10/88

• had not yet signed "home" but had been saying it since 9/11/89

"Mary's" Mother Schedules Observation

• observes "Mary" using Simon Sounds It Out, an individualized software application for reading

• although "Mary" has been using this application for previous 2 years, "Mary" is started again on Level One

• "Mary's" mother observes significant self-abusive behavior

• "Mary's" mother is concerned since self-abuse has not been seen for quite some time

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Phone Call to "Mary's" Mother:

Classroom teacher indicates we are having a "real problem" with "Mary" in the bathroom.

"She needs prompting for everything."

• pulling pants down

• sitting on the toilet

• going to the bathroom

"Mary's" Mother thinks to ask the MILLION DOLLAR QUESTION:

"Are you taking her on a schedule or is she being allowed to indicate when she needs to go to the bathroom?"

ANSWER:

"Oh, we're taking her on a schedule!"

K-5 Staff Transitions

• speech language pathologists: 6

• occupational therapists: 3

• physical therapists: 4

• visually impaired: 3

• principals: 4

• special educators: 6

• regular educators: 9

• art, music, p.e., paraprofessionals: over 20
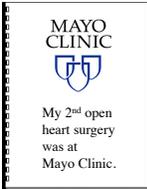
OUTCOMES

The Solution?

Who Am I?

A Dynamic Student Portfolio!

What is a **dynamic student portfolio**?

A dynamic student portfolio is a constantly changing document that describes the child by more than a series of labels.
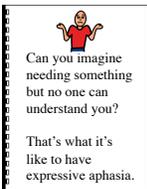
MAYO CLINIC

My 2nd open heart surgery was at Mayo Clinic.

"Who Am I *Beyond an IEP*?"

• teachers

• grandparents

• babysitters

• caretakers

• therapists

• medical professionals

I go for walks with my dog, Crosby.

What could be included?

• Text

…of how the child's disability affects the way they negotiate their day; how they see, hear, feel; how they communicate; their sense of humor.

Can you imagine needing something but no one can understand you?

That's what it's like to have expressive aphasia.

What should be included?

• Text

• Databases

…such as words signed, read, spoken; books read, software applications mastered and exposed to, etc.

Words I Can Sign

airplane
animal
apple
Ashley
baby

What should be included?

- Text

- Databases

- Personal Information

  ...family, friends, best friends & pet names; least & most favorite foods (foods prone to choke on); memorable vacations; outside activities; major likes and dislikes.

My favorite movie is Hocus Pocus.

What should be included?

- Text

- Databases

- Personal Information

- Photographs and Videos

  ...of the child at various ages, family members, pets, friends.

I have two sisters! Their names are Megan and Wendy.
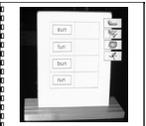

What should be included?

- Web links

  ...to national disability organizations, technology vendors, sites of interest.

What should be included?

- Web links

- Work samples

  ...including examples of appropriately designed curricular adaptations (original files, pdfs, photographs, or screen captures).

I see best when the presentation is vertical.

What should be included?

- Web links

- Work samples

- Emergency contacts

  ...family, physicians, dentist, neighbors, individuals who know the child best.

This is me by my raised vegetable garden.

Why Design by Computer or iPad?

- It is easily amended.
- It is easily stored.

...hard drive, flash drive, CD-ROM, iBook

- It is easily shared.

...print, e-mail, various media, or save to your iPad bookshelf

- It is easy to embed URL links.

I now use an iPad with Dynavox Compass for AAC in a Sherpa case.

What do you need to design a SP?

- Computer or iPad

- Word processing program or book creating app.

- Boardmaker, or other program, for a source of icons and an efficient way to organize a library of personal digital photos.

- Storage media.

- Printer, preferably color…or iPad bookshelf!

many abilities

I now work for manyabilities, a company created just for me!

The question should not be whether she can learn …but how she learns.

It is not just a matter of what technology she uses …but how she uses it.

It is not a matter of what she can't do …but how she can.