CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS

Self-Determination


BOTTOM LINE

Three teenagers with different disabilities write about how they have learned to develop a positive sense of self and become ambitious, effective, self-determining individuals.
TIPS

• Support adolescents with disabilities who want to make choices about coursework, extracurricular activities, college, and more.

• In order for adolescents to be independent, they must not allow their disability to take control.

• Adolescents with disabilities need appropriate help and a chance to succeed and not over-protection.

METHOD

• Three teenagers with different disabilities – Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, and a learning disability – offer first-person accounts of what it’s like to be an adolescent with a disability.

• Included is a poem as well as an address given by one of the students at the signing ceremony for the 1997 amendments to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

In order for adolescents to be independent, they must not allow their disability to take control.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS


For more information, contact the Beach Center on Disability at 1200 Sunnyside Avenue, 3111 Haworth Hall, the University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045-7534. Phone: 785-864-7600. Email: Beachcenter@ku.edu. Website: www.beachcenter.org.