

A person in a blue jacket stands on a dark, rocky peak, looking out over a vast, winding river valley. The scene is captured in a warm, golden-brown light, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The river winds through the valley, creating a complex pattern of curves and bends. The background shows rolling hills and mountains under a hazy sky. The entire scene is framed by a thin white border.

IT'S A JOURNEY,
NOT (JUST) ONE CHOICE

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WHO HAS JOINED US TODAY?

What role do you have?

Objectives

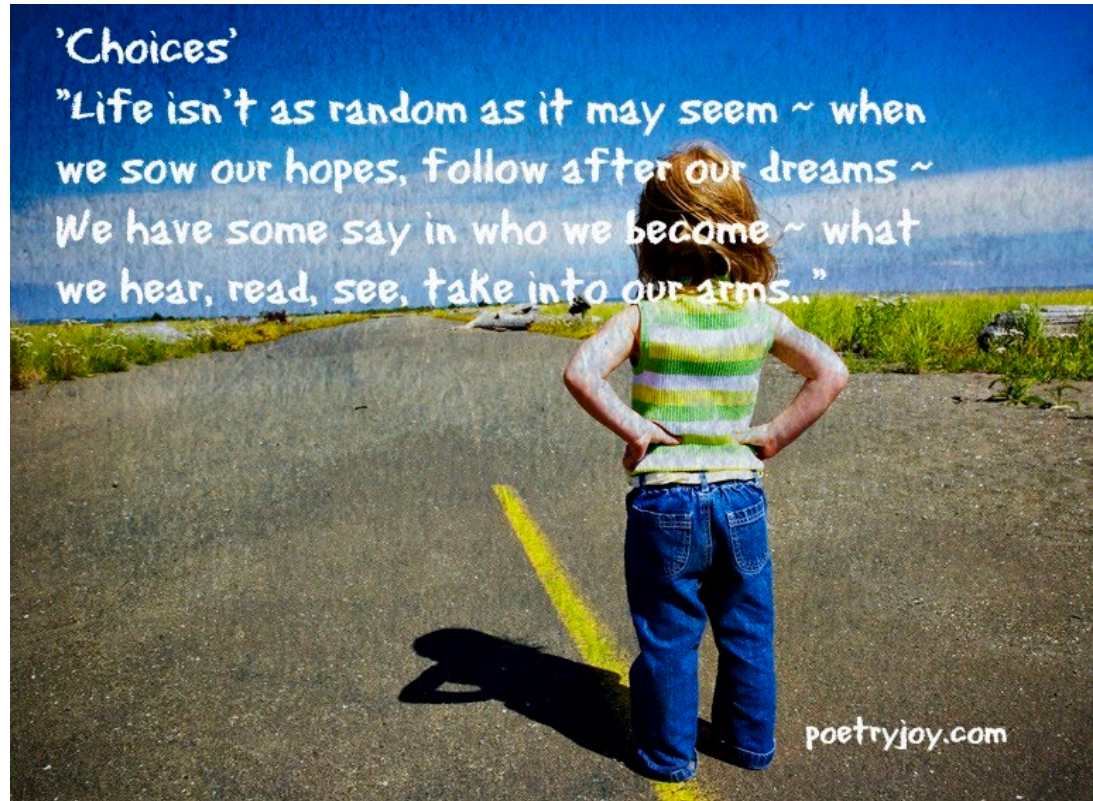


Participants will be able to identify ways in which:

- to support families as they explore language and communication opportunities.
- To encourage early interventionists to follow the family's lead in supporting family outcomes.

Journey or choice?

- It doesn't have to be one or the other!
- Embrace BOTH



*Stories create community,
enable us to see through
the eyes of other people,
and open us to the
claims of others.*

PETER FORBES



THE POWER OF A STORY

Karen

Mountains

Deaf

Journey to Gallaudet

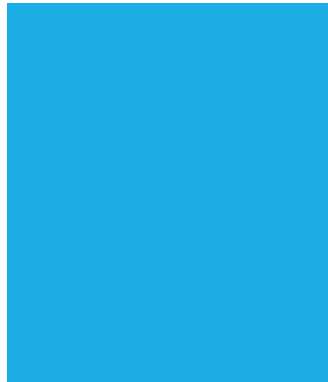
Three children - different styles

Adrianna's identification at 16

Supporting families

The fall of a lifetime

Where will I go next





DJENNE

- CHARGE Syndrome/Deaf plus
- Quality of LIFE
- Who is Malik?
- Crystal ball
- Living best life

AMBER

- Professionals can be one of the first people that most families talk to when they begin this journey
 - It is important for professionals to remember that the statements that they make can stick with families during their entire journey!



The journey of stepping back and letting your child help make the decisions about their modalities is important, but HARD as a parent.

Remembering that you do not have to stick to ONE modality choice for the rest of their lives is also important

I Wish you knew....

PARENTS

- Vulnerability
- Connections
- Hope/Vision

PROFESSIONALS

- Respect
- Information
- Time

THE BALANCE OF CHOICE AND JOURNEY





Tip to support the journey

- In Early Intervention how do we support families in the journey of choice?
- Foster discussion and reflection
- Assessments are critical
- Talk with families, not for/at them



LET GO AND
LET THE CHILD
LEAD

A network diagram consisting of several dark pins connected by thin, light-colored strings, set against a dark, textured background. The pins are arranged in a roughly circular pattern, with some strings connecting them to form a web-like structure. The word "DISCUSSION" is written in a large, white, sans-serif font across the center of the image, enclosed within a thin white rectangular border.

DISCUSSION

THANK YOU!

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