



If I Knew Then, What I Know Now:

**The Ah-Ha Moments
That Made a Difference**

Who Are We:



**Jennifer
Jordan**



**Michelle
Lunday**



**What were the
big Ah-Ha
Moments?**



My Friend Wade

It has been great getting to know Wade. He was in my class for Kindergarten, and First grade and he is also in my class this year. I was so excited when I found out he was going to be in my class this year. A few things he likes are Garth Brooks, Chocolate Pudding and, Mickey Mouse. He is very good at Math, Spelling words on his device and Smiling! Wade is growing and changing every day. Now, He can drive his wheelchair to many different places. has also been participating a lot in P.E. Wade is a very cool person. Me and Wade will be friends for a long time. I feel like he gets better every day.

“...cerebral palsy is an integral part of who I am. My identity is the product of my history. My history is that of a person with cerebral palsy. If I didn't have cerebral palsy, I wouldn't be who I am; I'd be someone else. Frankly, I like who I am, I like my history, I like my life. I'm not sure I'd sacrifice who I am for the sake of normal movement and speech.”

~ Norman Kunc

Broadreach Training and Resources

In Spite of My Disability

by Norman Kunc and Emma Van der Cleft



After the Ah-Ha moments what did you do?

- Buy Into the Vision
- Believe in the Dignity of Risk
- Stopped Asking

**By creating a vision, you and
your child take control of their
life not the system.**

~ unknown

Our Vision for Wade

We have a vision for Wade; a vision that goes far beyond the walls of a school building. Our vision started out pretty simple, for Wade to be included. As the years have flown by our vision has begun to evolve into something even bigger. Not only do we want Wade to be included in his school, neighborhood, and community, we also want him to be a contributing and active participant in his own life.


It is also important to us that Wade be surrounded by people who love, support, and care for him in a way that fosters his independence without creating a sense of “learned helplessness”. We want Wade to be a part of a community where differences are accepted and attempts are made to educate those who may be fearful or ignorant with regard to the culture of disability. We believe that language and words are powerful and see value in using ****People First Language** where Wade as a person is put before his disabilities. By modeling this language, we are attempting to eliminate the prejudice that surrounds those who have a disability while encouraging others to see past the disability. Wade is the amazing little boy he is because of his cerebral palsy; it is a part of him, but it does not define him.

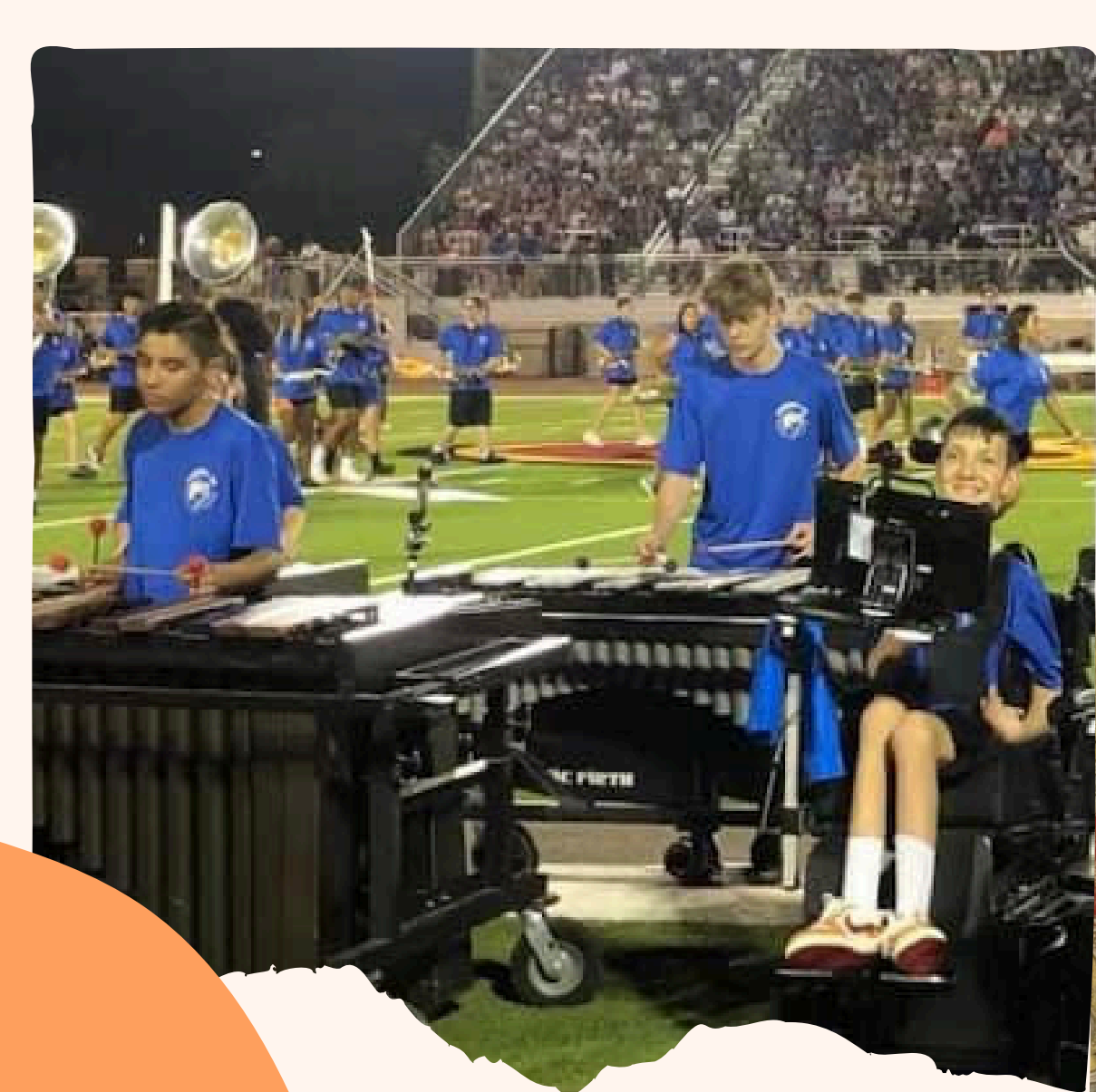
As Wade’s parents, we are an integral part of the team that supports him and his education. It is vital that the lines of communication remain open and that the staff working with Wade support our vision for him. We cannot do this alone. It will take all of us working together to make school a place where Wade can be successful and thrive both academically and socially. Comanche Springs Elementary is part of the foundation Wade needs in order for him to achieve whatever dreams he desires. We are confident that when given the same opportunities as every other child, Wade will find his voice and be successful in school, community, and life.

****When this was written in 2012, People First Language was prevalent. Our family uses people first and identity first language based on what our kids prefer.**

Dignity of Risk:

The legal rights of every person, including people with disabilities, to make choices and take risks to learn, grow and have a better quality of life. Inherent to the ideas of dignity of risk, is the idea that life experiences come with an element of risk, which event the best planning and support cannot eliminate.



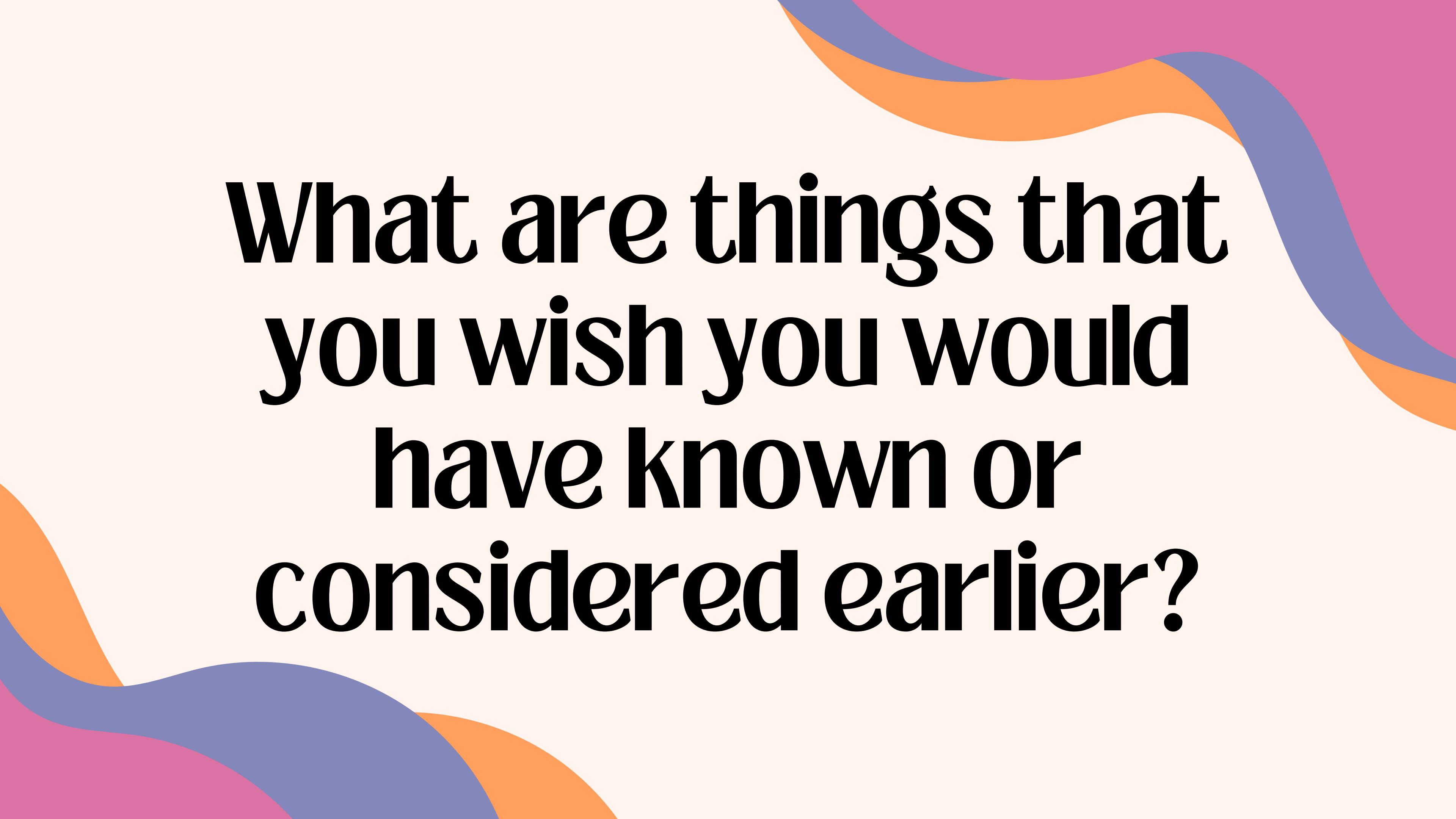


**Don't ask can my child
participate? Instead ask what
supports make it possible for
my child to participate?**

~ unknown







**What are things that
you wish you would
have known or
considered earlier?**

- **Non-Compliance is a Life Skill**
- **Bodily Autonomy**



When you believe that a person has the ability to make progress toward goals, it significantly changes how you plan to support the person to reach them.

~ Mark Victor Henson

Believe in your child until people think you have lost your mind. Then believe more!!





Until we learn to appreciate the power of language and the importance of using it responsibly, we will continue to produce negative social consequences for those victimized by dangerous language habits.

~ J. Dan Rothwell

Telling It Like It Isn't: Language Misuse and Malpractice/What Can we Do About It

Links you might find helpful:

- LikeRightNow Films (<https://likerightnowfilms.com/films>)
- Including Samuel
- Intelligent Lives
- Mr. Connolly Has ALS
- Bottom Dollars (<https://rootedinrights.org/documentaries/bottom-dollars/>)
- Least Dangerous Assumption
(https://www.uwosh.edu/coehs/cmagentproject/readings/documents/Least_Dangerous_Assumption.pdf)
- Comprehensive Literacy for All: Teaching Students with Significant Disabilities to Read and Write (<https://a.co/d/ez1qPb5>)
- A Credo For Support by Norman Kunc (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SKCwDF-SrI>)