Technology for Completing Schoolwork

By Eileen Curran

Visions of Collaboration
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A Bit About Me

goal driven

mom

blind

wife

teacher

funny

sister

friend

…
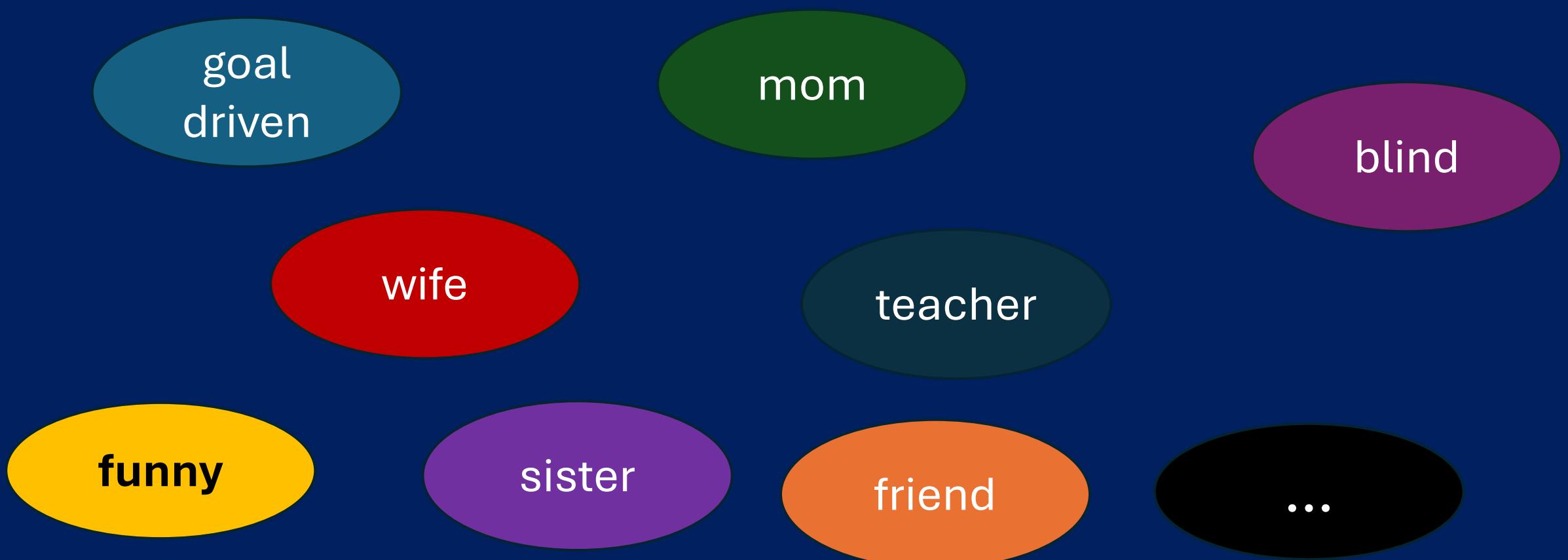
A Little History

➢ **Teacher, educated at Boston College**

➢ **Left teaching because of lack of transportation**

➢ **Worked 24 years at NBP**

➢ **Taught braille at BC**

➢ **Chaired BANA**

➢ **Former pres of AMESVI**

➢ **TVI and AT evaluator at the Carroll Center**

➢ **TVI for Boston Public Schools**

➢ **Working toward CATIS**

Children … Adults
What's the Difference?

➢ Adults tell teachers what they want or need to learn

➢ Teachers tell children what they need to learn

➢ I teach … and when a student has mastered the lesson, s/he chooses to use what was learned … or not.

HOWEVER,
We Need to ...

Make learning meaningful

Make learning fun

Get buy-in from the student

Meet learners where they are at

IDEA
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

Free

Appropriate

Public

Education

IDEA
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

Tech for Academics

- ❑ **Reading**
- ❑ **Writing**
- ❑ **Math**
- ❑ **Science**
- ❑ **Civics or Social Studies**

Reading

- ❑ **Low Vision**
  - ❑ **Font**
  - ❑ **Contrast**
  - ❑ **Reading stands**
  - ❑ **CCTVs and Video Magnifiers**
- ❑ **Braille**
  - ❑ **Braille Writers**
  - ❑ **Graphics**
  - ❑ **Production**
  - ❑ **Notetakers and Refreshable Braille Displays**
- ❑ **Audiobooks and Audio-Supported Reading**
- ❑ **CVI and complex needs**

Writing

- ☐ **Typing**
- ☐ **Shortcut keys**
- ☐ **.pdf editors**
- ☐ **Google Classroom and other platforms**
- ☐ **Google Read & Write**
- ☐ **Speech-to-text**

Math

- ❑ **Braille notetakers with math editors**
- ❑ **Submitting work to teachers**
- ❑ **.pdf editors**
- ❑ **Typing special characters**
- ❑ **Desmos and online tools**
- ❑ **Talking calculators**
- ❑ **Tablets with styli**
- ❑ **Highly visual**
- ❑ **Cranmer abacus**

Areas of the ECC and AT

- ❑ **AT is one of the areas of the Expanded Core Curriculum**
- ❑ **Orientation & Mobility**
- ❑ **Compensatory Skills**
- ❑ **Recreation and Leisure**
- ❑ **Self-determination**
- ❑ **Social**
- ❑ **Sensory Efficiency**
- ❑ **Career development**
- ❑ **Independent Living**

Where Does AT Come From For PreCollege Students?

- ❑ LEA's (Local Educational Agencies, i.e. school districts / towns).

- ❑ AIM Library

- ❑ MCB for home use

What are some technologies
that we use?

What if you could only pick one?

A Few Pearls of Wisdom

Learning does not stop at the school doors. Technology provides access to learning ... EVERYWHERE.

Kids are not asked if they want to learn algebra. They should not be asked if they want to learn braille or AT or ... either

No one tool will do it all!

Resources

[Accessible Instructional Materials (AIM) Library](#)

[Audio-Supported Reading](#)

[Bookshare](#)

[Braille And Audio Reading Downloads (BARD)](#)

[Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)](#)

[IDEA and Assistive Technology](#)

[Learning Ally](#)

[Massachusetts Commission for the Blind](#)