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Accessibility issues are understood in a way that intellectual disability related environmental needs are not.

Four Key Principles

1. People enter into relationship with their environment for better or worse.
2. The difference between a problem behavior and a preferred activity are the consequences.
4. If the environment does not work for your it is not your fault.

Experience has shown that a person-centered home that meets the needs of the individual empowers the person, and reduces stress and workload on others.

A supportive physical environment promotes self-determination, independence and empowerment.

Appropriate technology can deliver independence and dignity.
Ask people how they see and feel about the world.

Not everyone can talk but everyone communicates.

Support changing capacities and evolving needs over time.

If the environment does not work for you, it is not your fault.

If your environment does not work for you, you must move, even if you don't want to.

Choice is limited in environments that require intervention, redirection or restraint for safety.
Create environments that encourage exploration and discovery

You cannot fix a problem behavior in a broken environment.

Provide answers, solve the problem without judgement.

There are discoveries to be made

Soft wall construction built-in furnishings

Meeting people where they are - keeping them safe.
Environmental assessment and action plan

- Step 1:
  - Identify the challenges you face every day in the home as a caregiver.

- Step 2:
  - Involve the individual.

- Step 3:
  - Assess the home and identify what is not working

Solving the most common challenge

- Step 4:
  - Learn about common home modifications and strategies for specific challenges.

- Step 5:
  - Make an action plan that is appropriate to your unique situation and circumstances.

A safe and supportive environment

- Eliminate obvious hazards
- Install finishes that are durable and easily cleaned
- Anticipate unconventional use
- Anticipate water play
- Address problem doors
- Select appropriate furnishings

Supporting vestibular disorders, pacing, running, social avoidance.

- Provide choice and options for engagement
  - Safe places and predictability
  - Layers of freedom
  - Eliminate fear triggers
  - Control access and define boundaries
  - Make home a preferred place

The essential bathroom

Walking loop

Places of control / layers of freedom
Increasing visibility and connections

- Visibility and openings between rooms
- Connections for needed caregiving
- Using technology to monitor safety

Connected home

Keeping things clean, tidy and smelling good

- Adequate storage
- Limit the opportunity for clutter to migrate
- Building in routine
- Bad smells
- Flooring
- Negative air pressure or air seals
- Provide a changing area

Tools for housekeeping

ANNA'S STORY

"Vigilance and duct tape are not enough anymore"

Families need answers, help, knowledge and to know they are not alone.

"The bathroom floor is always wet and slippery, and Anna does not use the toilet"
Anna’s increased control and choice are the result of progressive opportunity.

The difference between a problem behavior and a preferred activity are the consequences.

The needs and lifestyle of a person change over time.

Shared dwelling for Anna and her parents.

Anna Diagnosed at age 3.5
Over next 3 years family spent $12,000 of their own money

- Age 7  Bathroom Remodel  $21,000
- Age 8  Fence  $2,350
- Age 9  Entertainment Center  $1,100
- Age 17  Baking Center  $2,100
- Age 19  Accessibility Remodel  $2,700
  — (Anna is by now in wheelchair)
- Age 20  Walkway  $2,700
- Age 21  Next step extend the family  $70,000

What Do Families Want?

- To have choice in roommates and living situations.
- To feel that our adult with disabilities is safe living outside our family home.
- To have a system that is more flexible and able to create more appropriate living options for our adult with disabilities.
- To have a continuum of options available that will respond to changes in needs across the lifespan.
- To have living options for our adult with disabilities that fit our family values and culture.
What Do Individuals With Disabilities Want?

- To make our own choices and direct our own lives. To live with the people we want to live with.
- To be like everyone else with friends, home, job, community.
- To be actively involved in our community.
- To feel good about ourselves and have others recognize us for what we contribute to others and the community.
- To be an adult, treated like an adult.

Duplex

Braddock House
Armitos Development
Woodmansee Village: An Integrated Neighborhood

Jeremiah Village / Glade Run Lutheran Services

What is Jeremiah Village?
- Real neighborhoods where people with and without disabilities will want to live.
- Quality homes that support various living arrangements, family, multi-generational, and household compositions.
- A walkable neighborhood where there are real connections between neighbors, neighborhoods and the community.

Flexible Living Unit
- Combines 1 Bedroom+ Efficiency Apartment
- Connected by Lockable Door
- Inter-connects up to Four Units
- Proximity Supports Privacy and Independence
- Fully Furnished Option