

Working with Neurodiverse Students

FALL 2019

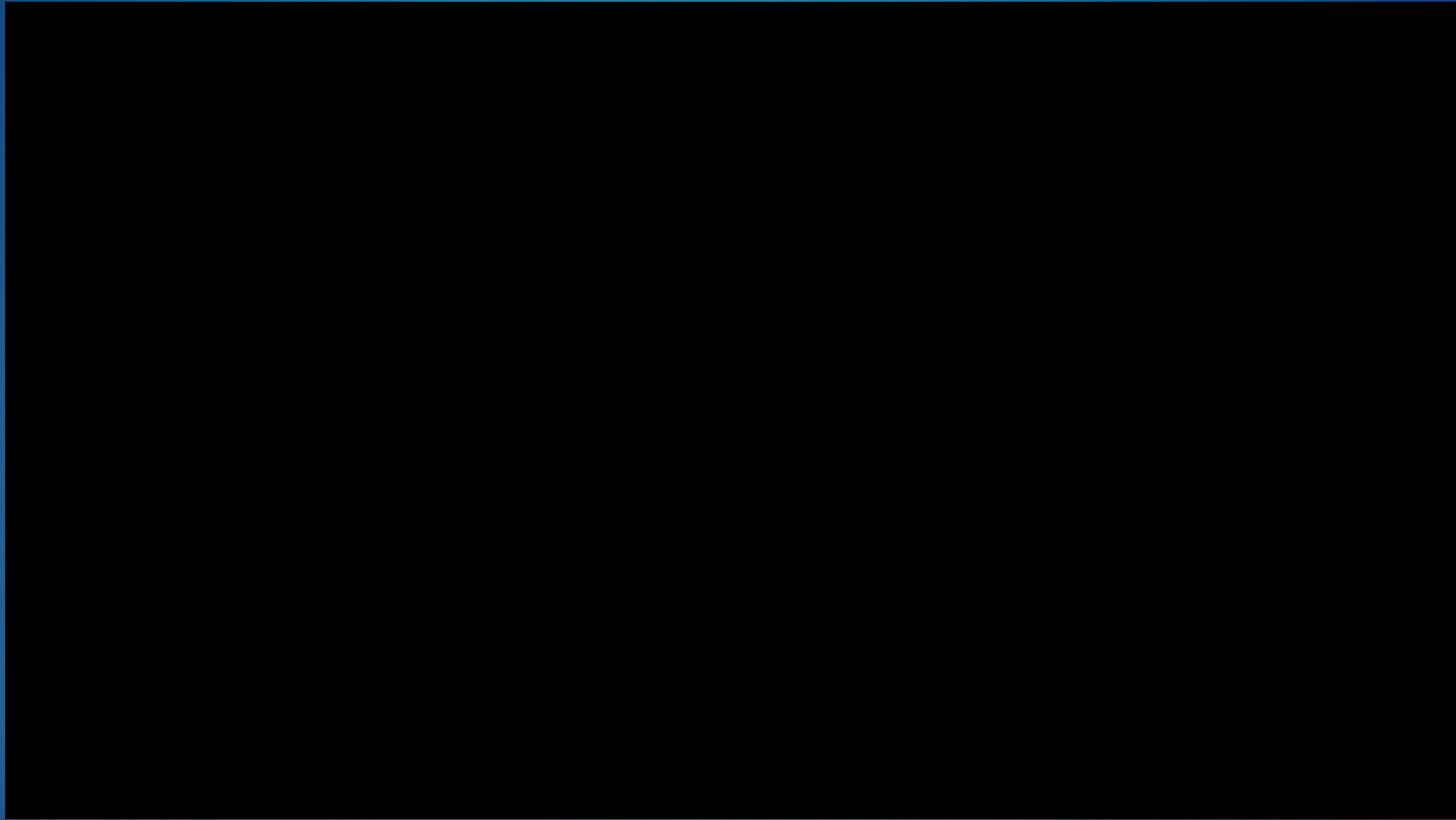
SUSIE STEAR

Using a KWL chart - neurodiversity

K = know	W= want to know	L = learned

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Definition

- ▶ What is Neurodiversity? (Neurological diversity)
 - ▶ A concept where neurological differences are to be recognized and respected as any other human variation.
 - ▶ Viewpoint that brain differences are normal, rather than deficits.

Different, not disabled



- ▶ Neurotypical = “normal”
- ▶ Neuroatypical = outside of “normal”



Differences

- ▶ Dyspraxia
- ▶ Dyslexia
- ▶ Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
- ▶ Dyscalculia
- ▶ Autism Spectrum
- ▶ Tourette Syndrome
- ▶ Sometimes others





Practical Implications for autism

- ▶ Presume competence even when you don't see or hear it yet.
- ▶ Smile
- ▶ Listen
- ▶ Wait
- ▶ Make room for nonverbal communication



“Language is an awkward way to communicate” — and I (Barb) argue that while this can be true for everyone, it is highly challenging for those of us who are autistically wired. It took me years to think in language. But prior to that, my thinking was not faulty; it was just not language based. Typing makes it way easier because I can control the speed of each thought and break it down into smaller parts or, to be more precise, one letter at a time.

Practical Implications for ADHD

- ▶ Let students know that human excellence comes in all packages – so they are invited to be themselves.
- ▶ Don't make unrealistic restrictions on movement.
- ▶ Create some routines.
- ▶ Understand that people with ADHD are drawn to intense stimuli – and go for it.
- ▶ Be patient with yourself as you learn more and do better.



Practical Implications for Dyslexia

- ▶ Make print worth it.
- ▶ Accommodate now.
- ▶ Invest in strategies that work.
- ▶ Communicate the strengths as well as the patterns of difficulty that dyslexia signifies.
- ▶ Cultivate the advantages of dyslexia.



Goals

Recognize
differences



Embrace them as
part of the
mainstream



Offer support





*Autism is our
prism, not our
prison.*

**We may think
differently, but we are
still thinking.**





There is strength in diversity.

What changes are necessary?




Using a KWL chart

K = know	W= want to know	L = learned

Questions and discussion



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- ▶ <https://neurodiversitysymposium.wordpress.com/what-is-neurodiversity/>
 - ▶ <https://www.understood.org/en/friends-feelings/empowering-your-child/building-on-strengths/neurodiversity-what-you-need-to-know>
 - ▶ <https://www.kappanonline.org/rentenbach-prislovsky-gabriel-valuing-differences-neurodiversity-classroom/>
 - ▶ <https://youtu.be/xL7pIUbYIJ4> Seth Perler, executive function and 2e coach