

MATTHEW CORKUM, PhD

Seeing the ABILITY in disAbility



What the Education System Doesn't Know That's Keeping Kids Back, Bullied, and Behind

Educators are dedicated to making a difference in the life of children! Yet it can be hard to know how to support every child's unique needs. With limited budgets, time, and resources accommodating students with disabilities can be a significant challenge.

Many professionals in the education realm struggle with:

- A fear of saying the wrong thing, being impolite, or feeling awkward.
- Concerns about pushing students past their limits.
- Assumptions they make about the capabilities of those who are different.
- "Ableism" prejudices that they may not even be aware of.
- Uncertainty about what to say if people make fun of, or bully, someone with a disability.
- How to deal with the concerns of parents of disabled children.
- Teaching children how to be truly inclusive, understand and relate to, those who have different types of abilities.

Walk a Mile in My Shaky Shoes

How To Tap Into the Ability in disABILITY in School(30 - 60 minutes)

In this lively presentation you will hear a unique, first-hand, perspective on the pivotal role everyone involved in education plays in the lives of those with disabilities.

- Learn the myths about dealing with students with disabilities.
- Discover the hidden benefits of uncovering the Ability in ALL of your students.
- Explore how and when to make accommodations that support the best performance, education, and well-being of people with disabilities, and when it is counter-productive.
- Hear how powerful your influence on development and achievement truly is.
- Normalize disabilities by teaching students how to include those with disabilities.
- Lay a foundation of diversity and inclusion that persists far after graduation, and far beyond the schools walls.

Leave knowing how empowering inclusion benefits, and makes, everyone more successful!

Those who benefit from Matthew's messages include:

Teachers, Administrators, T.A.'s, School Employees, Curriculum Creators, Parents, and Students.



"I loved how you began your presentation by building relationships and connections with the students. Both by talking about some of your interests (like mountain biking) which many of them can relate to, but also being open and honest with them about how your diagnosis impacted your family and your life when you were growing up. I really loved the take away message that you shared with students that it's important that they keep in mind that others who may look or talk differently from them can usually do all of the same things that they can do, just sometimes in a different way. Stating the challenges without focusing on them and leading students to see the similarities instead is a very powerful way to share your message."

- Mrs. Tina Blackwell, Elementary Teacher at Lawrence Grassi Middle School, Canmore.

Having experienced bullying and discrimination his whole life has made Matthew Corkum passionate about ensuring that people with disabilities feel as worthwhile and wanted as everyone else! He is a stand for helping everyone focus on the ABILITY in disABILITY.

Matthew has not let his Cerebral Palsy limit his love of living an active life of contribution. Whether getting his PhD, advocating in his advisory role on the City of Calgary's Accessibility Committee, speaking professionally, or simply enjoying his favorite pastime of biking on three continents and counting, he is all-in!

As an atmospheric scientist Matthew works as a head meteorologist in Calgary, Alberta. His humor, helpful insights, and contagious enthusiasm give audiences practical ways to eliminate the stigma, judgement, and misunderstandings that happen when dealing with people that are different. In his off time if he is not developing diversity and inclusion programs, or working out with his trainer, you can find him competing in 'fat bike' and endurance road races.

Other presentations in the "Seeing the Ability in disABILITY" series:

- What the Medical System Doesn't Know That's Impacting Quality of Care
- What Business Owners Don't Know That's Hurting Your Bottom Line and Your Success
- What the Education System Doesn't Know That's Keeping Kids Back, Bullied, and Behind
- What Parents Don't Know That's Keeping Their Kids Held Back, Harassed, and Hidden
- Weather: Is It Cloudy or Clear?

Just a few places Matt has presented at :



St. Philip School



matthewcorkumspeaking.com



matthewbcorkum@gmail.com



587-888-9943