

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.
- Learn how to best support students with diverse needs without labeling anyone while gaining their respect.
- Develop skills to work at different levels so that each student feels included, wanted and equal 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.



Dr. Matthew Corkum spoke to our group on Provincial Conference Day. His keynote presentation set the tone for an incredible day! The feedback we received from members was incredible and included: 'Best speaker in my 30 years of going to conferences.'

Our committee members have said to me, "How do we top this for next year?" My response was, "We don't! Some experiences cannot be replicated, a once in a career/ lifetime opportunity!!"

Karalee Crawford PD Committee Chair for SEIU members with the SSRCE.

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 role as President of the board of directors for Rocky Mountain Adaptive, speaking professionally, or simply enjoying his favorite pastime biking and alpine skiing, he is all-in!

As an atmospheric scientist Matthew worked as a head meteorologist in Calgary, Alberta for 13 years at a top energy hedge fund. 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 mountain biking in the summer and alpine skiing in winter.

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

Just a few places Matt has presented at :



St. Philip School



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