It's Never too Early to Start Thinking Ahead!



Rachel and Kevin Siffring - parents

Hosted by:
Amy Slama, Northeast Region Transition Facilitator

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Siffring Family - Kevin, Rachel, Aubree and Braxton Siffring

Aubree -

18 years old in College

Braxton -

Junior 16 years old

Kevin and Rachel -

farm corn and soybeans

Rachel -

Substitute Teacher



Live on a Farm near Rising City

Kids attend Shelby Rising City School

Raise Sheep for FFA and 4-H

Very active and involved in School and Community

Braxton 16 years old Junior at SRC





Loves to swing, swim, fish, outdoor activities

Loves animals and the outdoors

Loves to help farm

Loves to be active

Autism Spectrum Disorder

Apraxia of speech

Sensory Processing disorder

Mostly non-verbal

Uses IPad and TD Snap to communicate



Our Journey

- Applied for Services about 8 years old - Second Grade
- Got accepted and put on the Waiting List
- Phone call - ICAP every year
- Age 14 we got an offer for Services - CDD waiver
- For us this meant Medicaid and choosing a provider
- We chose to hire Independent Providers
- Supported Family Living & Respite
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Opportunities DD Services opened for us

- Special Olympic Bowling
- EPIC Soccer
- Outings and Activities
    - Zoo
    - School Events and Activities - Volleyball and Basketball games
    - Community events and activities

- Supported Family Living
    - Life Skills
    - Detailing Vehicles
    - Chores
    - Work on Communication with others

Tips to Keep in Mind

- ★ Apply for Services Early
- ★ Educate yourself
  - Attend conferences, agency fairs, PTI videos and events
  - Gather Information, follow facebook groups and sites
- ★ Ask Questions
- ★ Keep Options Open
- ★ Follow-Up
- ★ If your School team hasn't brought it up, Don't be afraid to ask
- ★ Be open to hear things that aren't always fun to hear
- ★ Build Employability Skills in your child / student

Resources - Who to ask if you have Questions

Your Child's Special Education Teacher

Your Transition Coordinator through ESU

PTI - (402) 346-0525

DHHS - https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/DD-Contact-Us.aspx

Local Arc

Other Parents who have gone through the process

Other ways to learn more

- Central Region Transition Conference - October 22 - ODIE.ESU10.ORG
- Eastern Nebraska Transition Conference - February 25 - registration coming in early December
- Autism Conference