TACKLING TRANSITION TOPICS- SEPTEMBER 2025

MAKING THE MOST OF TRANSITION

PREPARING FOR LIFE AFTER SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES END

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AGENDA

1. Cliff vs Slide
2. Transition Plan
3. Transition Assessments
4. Transition Programming
5. Transition to Adulthood
6. Adult Services
7. Resources & Tips

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THE GOAL...

FOR TONIGHT

Help you see the 30,000 foot view of the transition process, so you can actively participate and prepare your student to successfully transition to life beyond school

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HI, I'M HEATHER



Former Hinsdale 86 Transition Facilitator & Transition Teacher

A Love for Special Learning, LLC

Create resources for educators and families

Take Advantage IL
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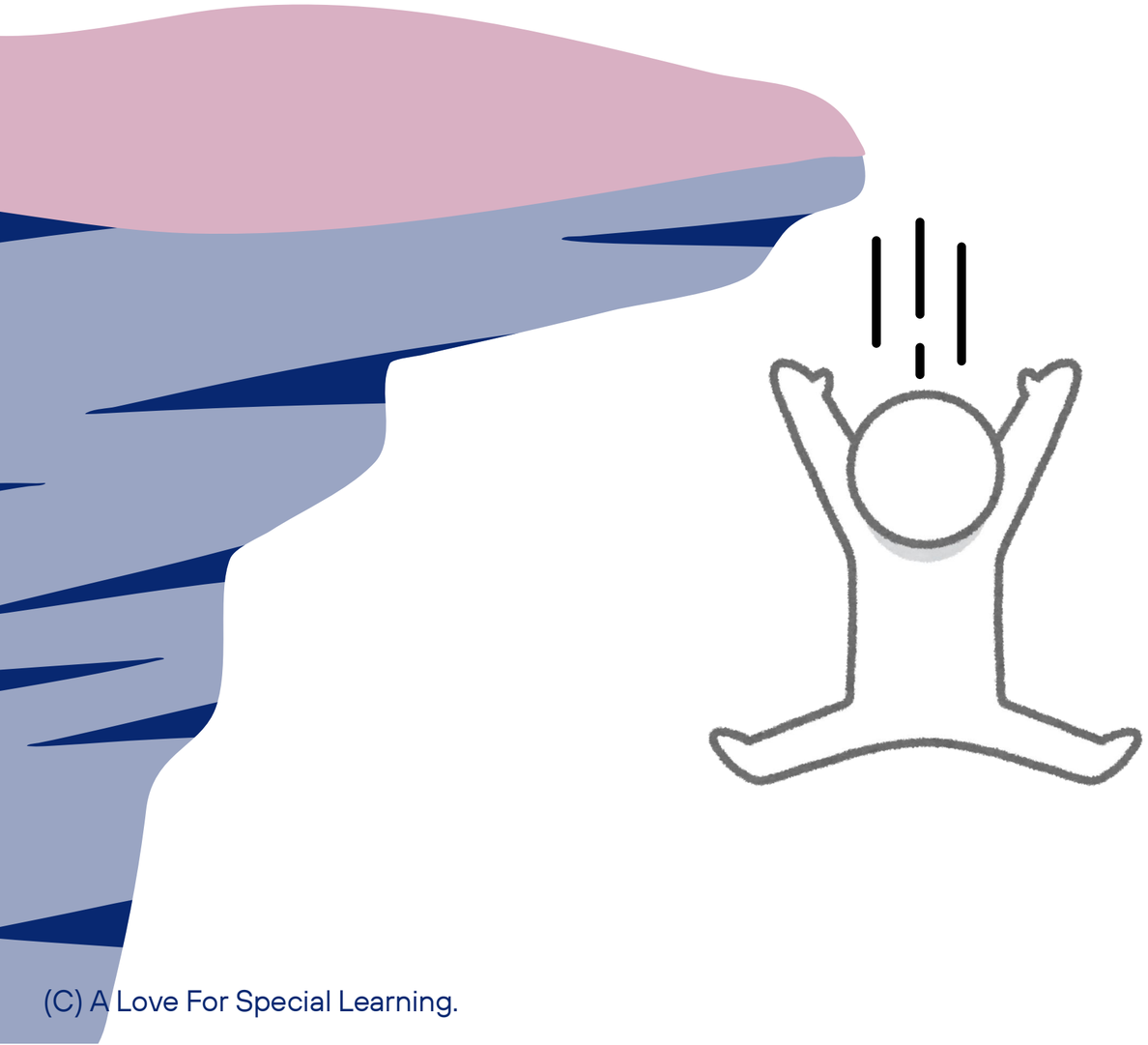
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CLIFF VS SLIDE



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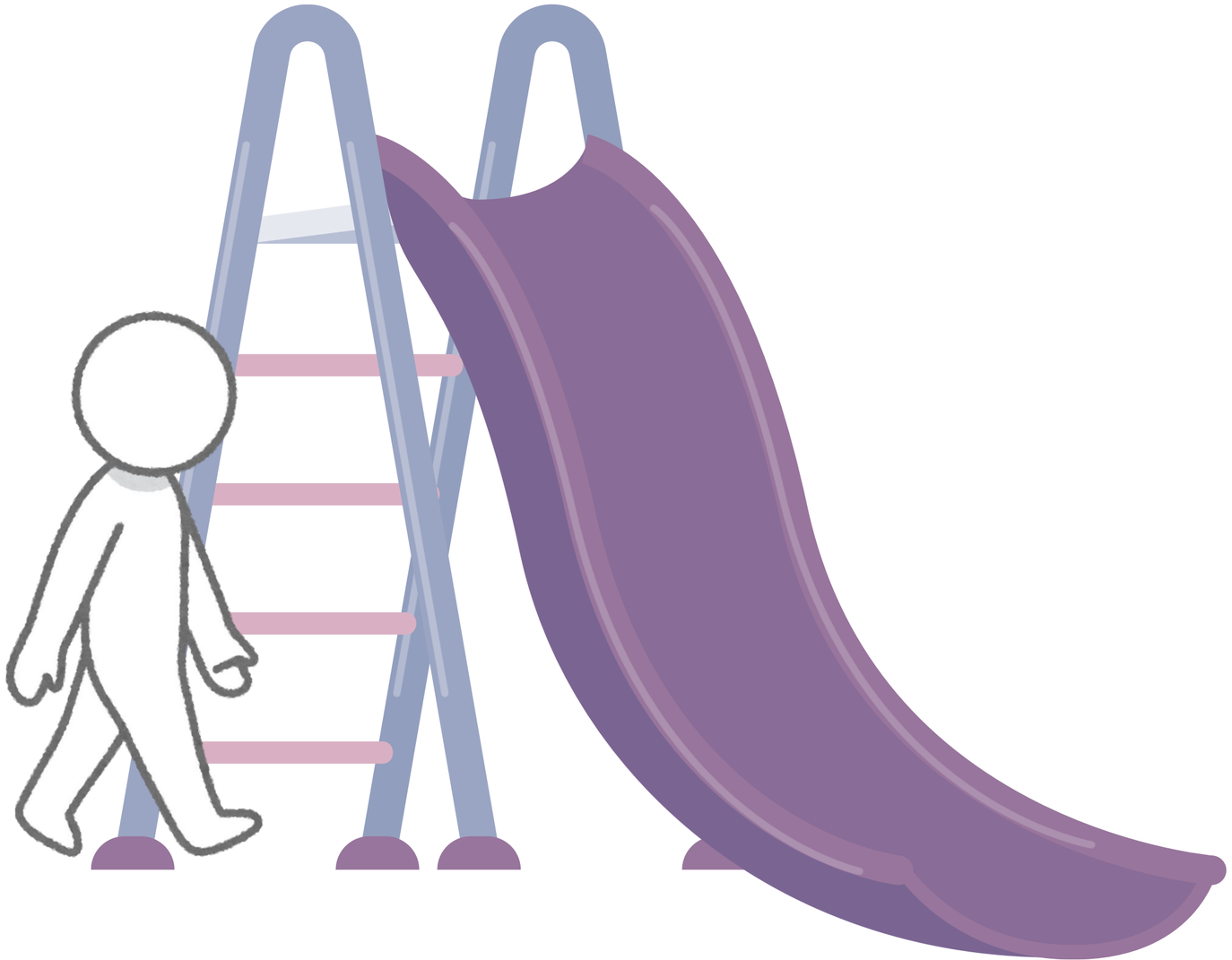
CLIFF VS SLIDE



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CLIFF VS SLIDE





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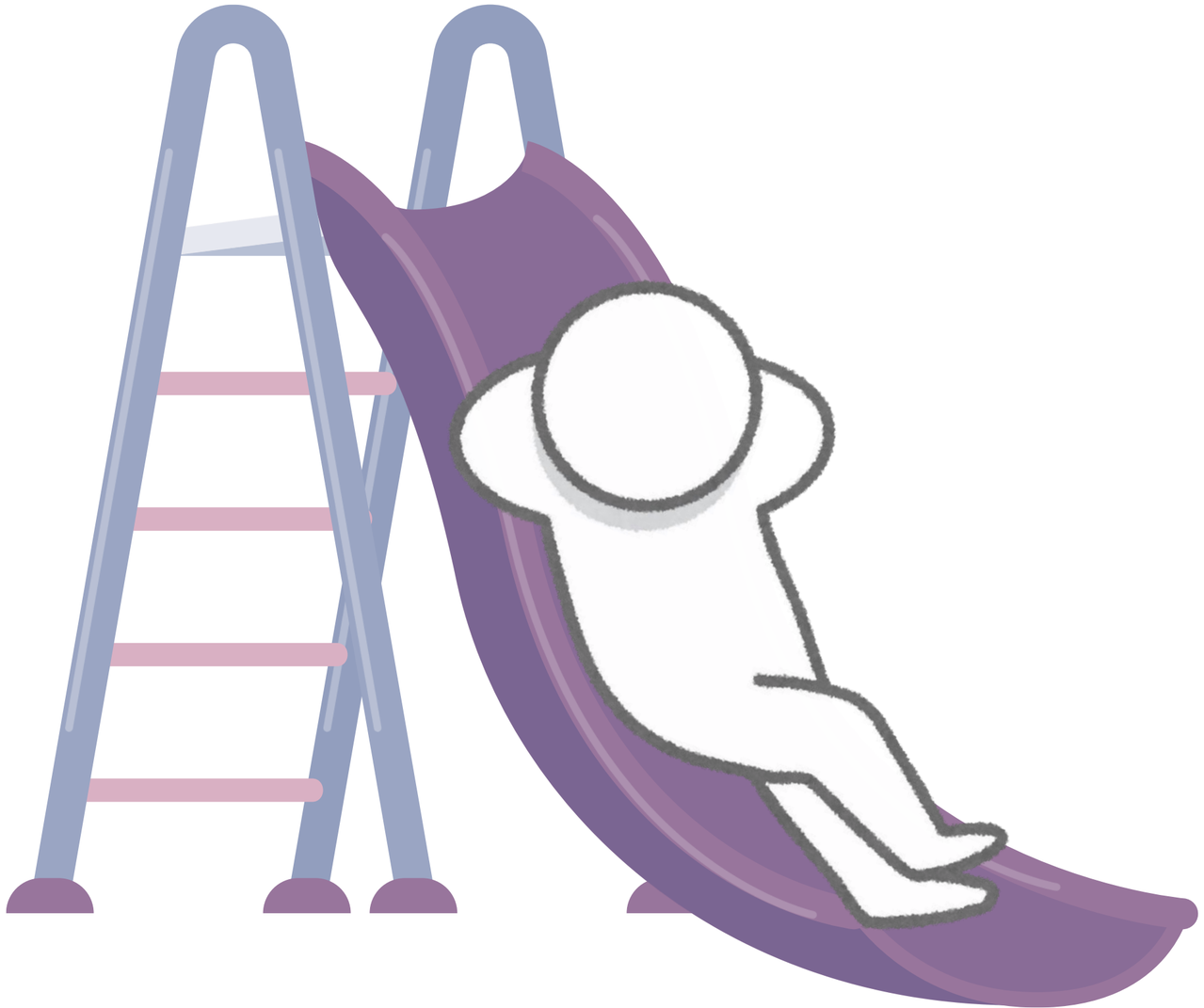
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CLIFF VS SLIDE

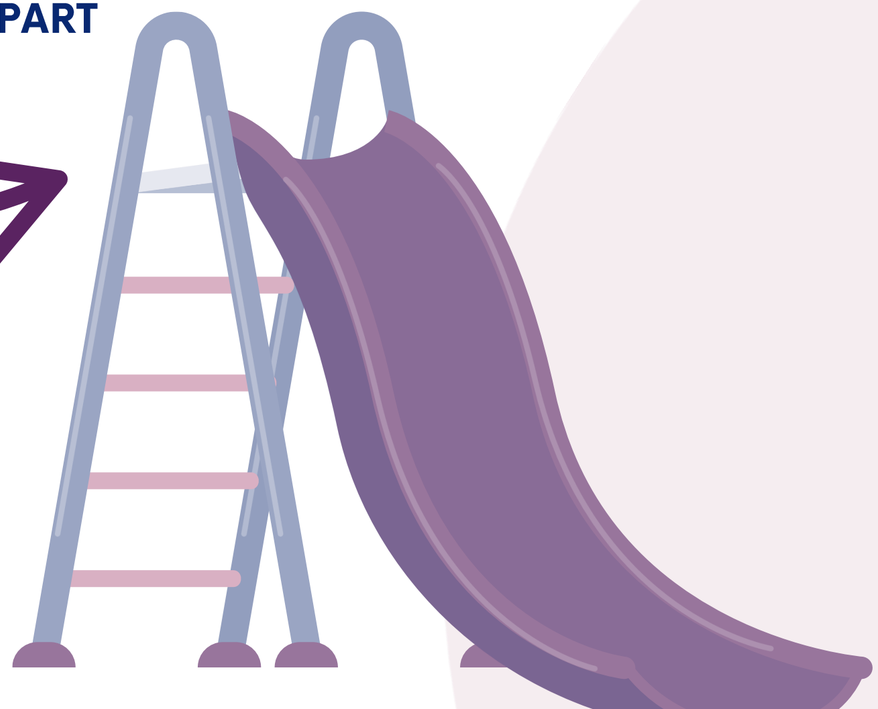




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SO...HOW TO BE 'ACTIVE' IN THE TRANSITION PROCESS

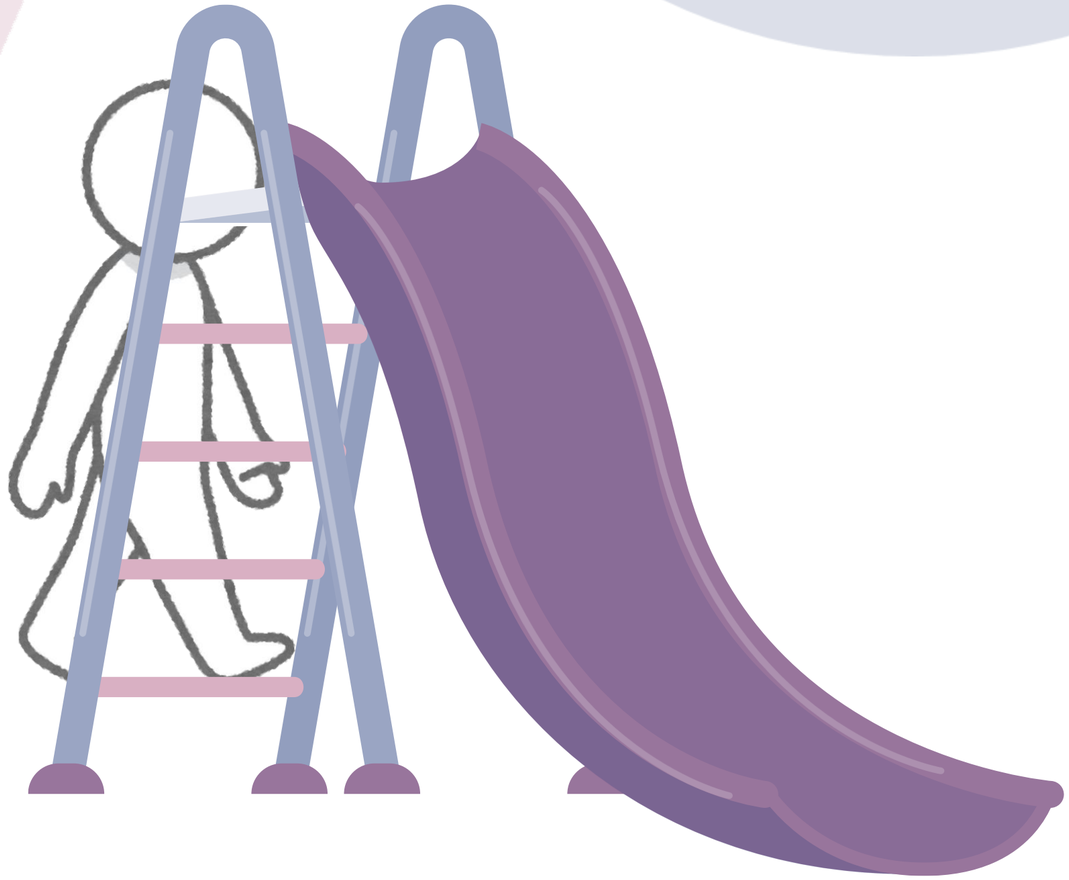
LET'S SAY THE STAIRS ARE THE 'ACTIVE' PART



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TRANSITION PLAN

- Section of the IEP
- Starts at 14.5 years old
- Continues through the school year the student turns 22 years old
- The **purpose is to prepare the student to move from school-provided services to life after school**
- **Living document** that is updated yearly



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TIP:

FIND THE PLAN, LOOK FOR THE 'OUTSIDE AGENCIES' OR 'LINKAGES'

TRUTH:

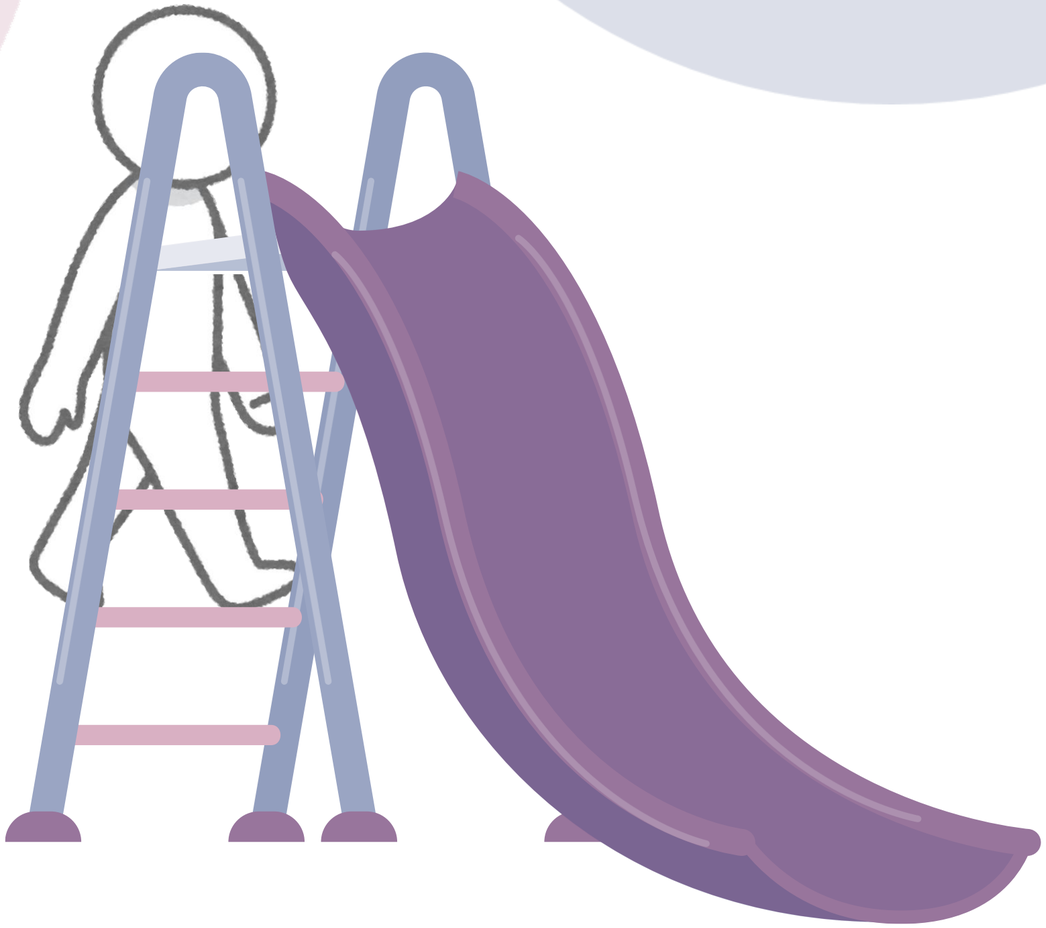
THIS PLAN BECOMES MORE IMPORTANT THE OLDER THEY BECOME



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TRANSITION ASSESSMENTS

- A Transition Plan identifies **3 Transition Outcomes: Education/Training, Employment, & Independent Living**
- Assessments are inventories, questionnaires, conversations, etc about a student's skills, interests, strengths, preferences, and long-term dreams/desires
- **Your STUDENT'S voice is used to develop the 3 Transition Outcomes**
- **YOUR** thoughts are also taken into consideration when developing the 3 Transition Outcomes



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TIP:

1. COMPLETE THE TRANSITION ASSESSMENT EVERY YEAR
2. THINK BEYOND GRADUATION

TRUTH:

YOU HAVE A VOICE, BUT A STUDENT'S GOALS ARE MORE INTERNALLY MOTIVATING THAN ANYONE ELSE'S GOALS

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TRANSITION PROGRAMMING*

- After a student has secured the required graduation credits, Transition Programming is optional
- **A diploma is held** until the student exits from transition programming (this is a federal law)
- May continue through the school year the student turns 22 years old
  - (Relevance towards Outcomes)
- Academic and non-academic focused goals/activities to achieve those 3 Transition Outcomes

*Transition 'activities' address the Transition Plan during the high school years



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TRANSITION PROGRAMMING

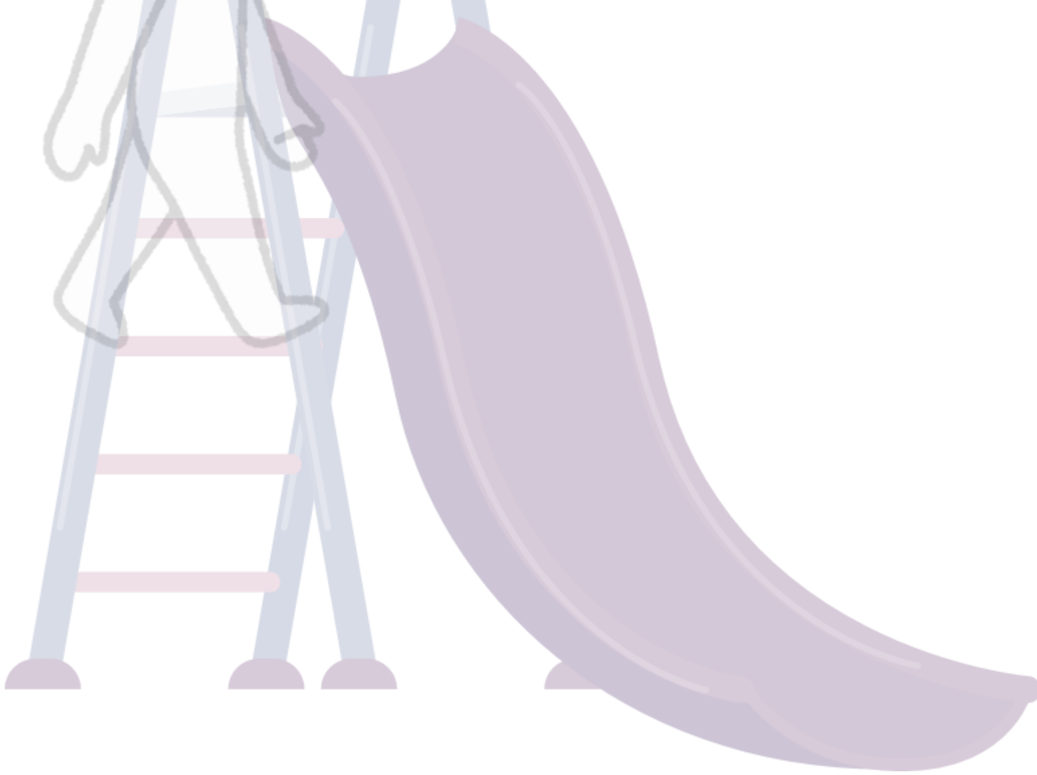
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TIP:

AS SCHOOL SUPPORTS FADE, HOME SUPPORTS INCREASE

TRUTH:

APPROPRIATE INTERACTIONS W/ COWORKERS ARE JUST AS IMPORTANT AS COMPLETING THE TASK W/ THE COWORKER



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TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD

- Transition to taking the lead in decisions (Delegation of Rights) at 18 years old
- Transition to taking the lead in accessing supports (Entitlement vs Eligible)
- Transition to other learning, vocational, and recreational environments



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TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD

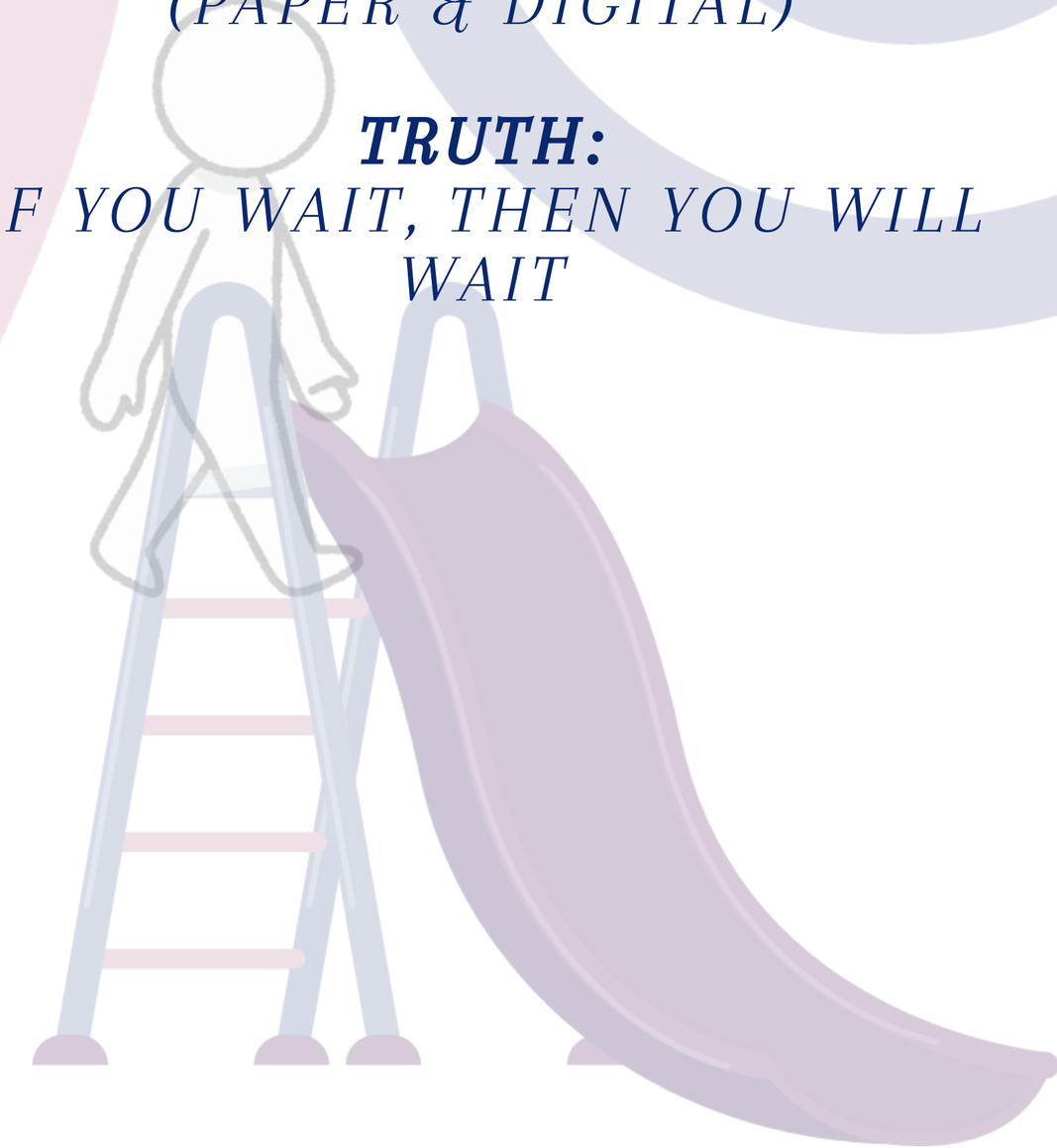
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TIP:

EARLY BIRD GETS THE WORM
COLLECT STRONG EVIDENCE (PAPER & DIGITAL)

TRUTH:

IF YOU WAIT, THEN YOU WILL WAIT



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TRANSITION TO ADULT SERVICES

- **Funding**- Money to pay for care, transportation, therapies, rec programs, etc.
- **Services**- Health insurance and work support
- **Supports**- Decision making, financial protection, housing, post-secondary, care, and identification



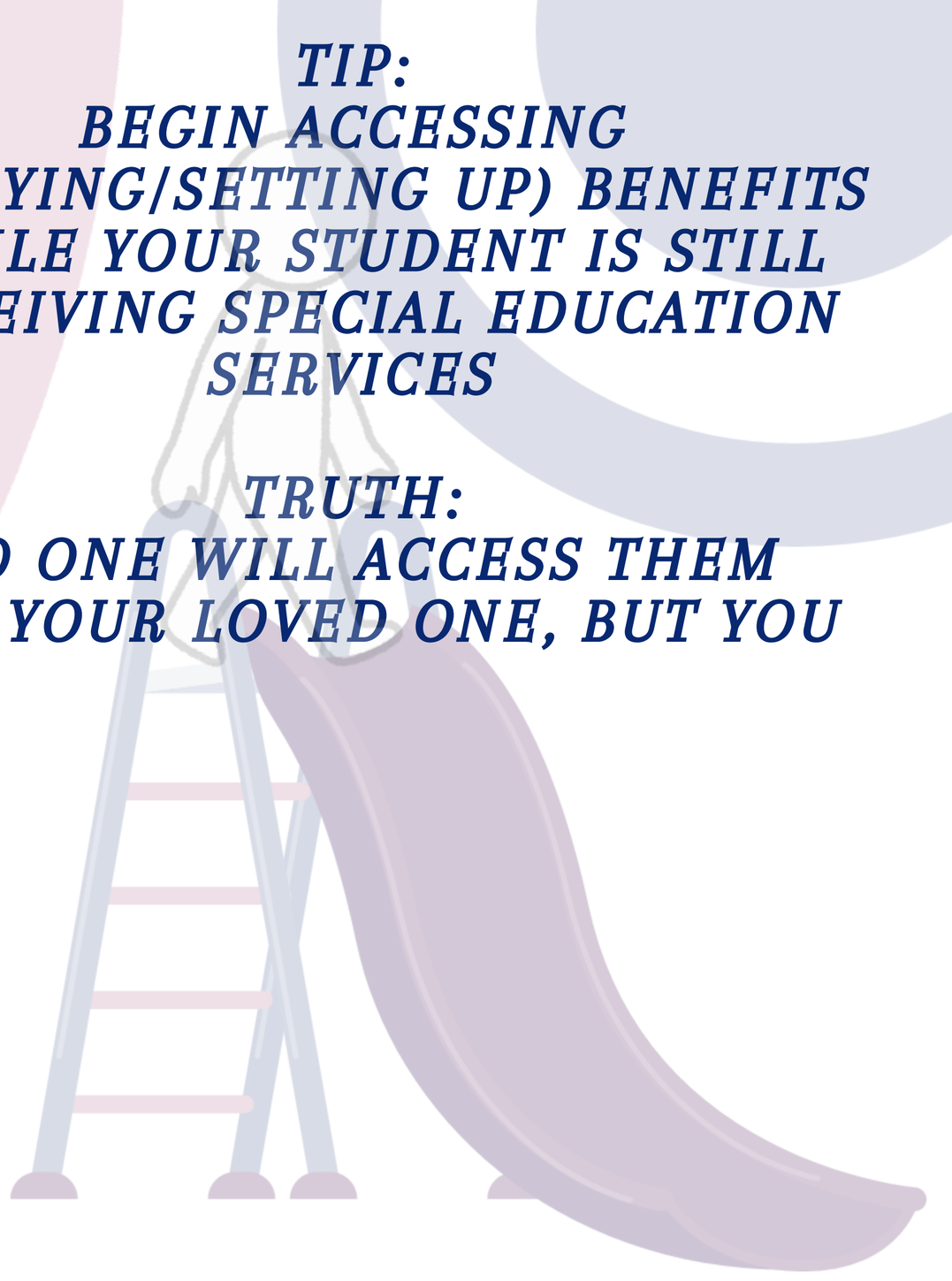
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TIP:
BEGIN ACCESSING (APPLYING/SETTING UP) BENEFITS WHILE YOUR STUDENT IS STILL RECEIVING SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

TRUTH:
NO ONE WILL ACCESS THEM FOR YOUR LOVED ONE, BUT YOU



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TRANSITION TO THE REAL WORLD



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SEE TRANSITION AS A TIME TO TRANSITION TO ADULT SERVICES

BECAUSE...

→ A student transitions from school to other environments...BUT...

→ Parents/Guardians transition from school and case manager support to the sole CEO of benefits

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BENEFITS

ADULT SERVICES

FUNDING, SERVICES & SUPPORTS

How to maintain and strengthen the skills learned while in Special Education in the 'Real World'

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DID YOU GET THAT 'TRANSITION CHECKLIST' FROM SCHOOL?

IT'S MORE THAN JUST CHECKING A BOX

THE SUGGESTED AGE TIMELINE AND ORDER MATTERS...

PUNS: TIME SENSITIVE

SSI: IMPORTANT 1ST DOMINO

DRS: EASIER TO REACTIVATE

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ACTIVELY LEARN ABOUT BENEFITS

YOU BECOME THE STUDENT

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Step-by-Step Guides for 15 Benefits

List of All 15 Benefits

1.PUNS
2.SSI
3.Medicaid
4.SSDI/Medicare
5.DHS Home Services
6.Letter of Intent
7.Supported Decision Making
8.Power of Attorney
9. Guardianship
10. ABLE Accounts & Special Needs Trusts
11. **DRS Vocational Services**
12. Respite
13. State ID
14. Housing Options
15. College Supports and College Experience Programs

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PUNS

FUNDING

FREE

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SSI

FUNDING

FREE

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DRS VOC

SERVICE

FREE

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RESOURCES & TIPS

FOR STAYING ACTIVE

REVIEW THE TRANSITION PLAN

Look through current IEP, should be before IEP Goals or ask current Case Manager/Teacher for a copy

NEED A CHECKLIST?

Scan here to download one!

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

Attend the presentation too early, take the tour before you should, read the post before you need it

Collect documents in paper & digital

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CONTACT ME



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