



Independence Is A Highway

**And I Want to Ride It All Day
Long**

**Taking the Driver's Seat Towards
Independence**

Watching your parents driving the minivan

- Just like watching your parents drive, you learn independence by watching it.
- As a young child you learn how to advocate for yourself by watching your parents advocate for you.
- Your parents show you that you have rights and that you belong.
- A youth will learn self-knowledge.

When Daddy Let Me Drive (sitting on Daddy's lap)

- A child begins to learn how to advocate for themselves with baby-steps.
- They need to make small decisions such as; asking for something they need from a teacher.
- You discuss what you need in school with your parents.
- Practice helps to develop advocacy skills.

Studying for the Permit Test

- **Learning from others can be the best tool in becoming independent.**
- **It is important to learn about self, disability, needs, and rights.**
- **Attend conferences, disability groups, peer leadership groups.**
- **Knowledge promotes confidence and self-acceptance.**

Driving on a Permit

- Being on a “Permit” gives a youth the freedom to be independent but with the supervision of a parent.
- Make your own decisions, with parental guidance.
- Youth are able to start pursuing goals they have set for themselves.



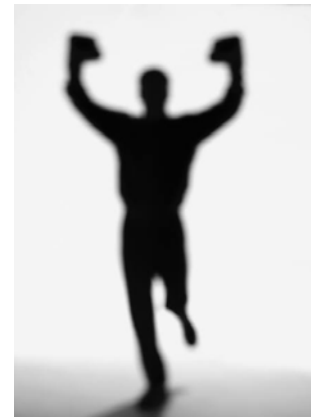
The Driver's Test

- There is no one test, each new situation is its own test. Sometimes you pass and sometimes you fail, but like the driver test, it can be taken again and again until you get it right.
- The previously established self-determination will then assist him or her in overcoming obstacles and barriers (tests) that are bound to emerge.



Adult License

- With practice and guidance a person can achieve their independence.
- Through their independence, experiences, and personal growth they have many of the building blocks in leadership development.
- These leadership skills can lead to successful adult lives.



Thank You

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