

Paula Kluth &
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"Just Give Him
the Whale!"

20

Ways to Use Fascinations, Areas of Expertise,
and Enthusiasms to Support Students with Autism

JUST GIVE HIM THE WHALE: Supporting Juveniles with Their Passions & Interests

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We did Kickboxing-Thanks for Being a Good Sport!

WELCOME!!!

OUR SCHEDULE:
JUST GIVE HIM
THE WHALE-
Supporting
Juveniles with
Their Passions &
Interests

1:00-2:30 PM



PEDRO'S WHALE BOOK

Pedro: Using interests, passions and fascinations is a great place to start. It makes education and a quality life in the community come to life!

- How we view and characterize a person is everything!
- Create a support plan around the person

JUST GIVE HIM THE WHALE!!!



PEDRO'S WHALE

Paula Kluth & Patrick Schwarz
Illustrated by Justin Canha



What are Passions and Interests in Your Life???

Enjoys playing video and computer games???

Loves to travel???

Always is reading books for pleasure???

Is passionate about a particular sport & team???

Loves movies and goes to them often???

Participates in physical activity daily???

Listens to music, sings or goes to concerts for a hobby???

Likes to try new restaurants???

Has participated in an important cause benefit???

Loves nature and likes to hike???

Likes to shop for clothes???

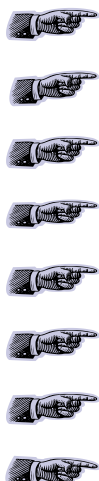
Uses Facebook, Twitter and/or Instagram every day???

Has a passion for being with their children???

Has a passion for being with their significant other???

Doesn't fit into any of these categories??? Any specialties you wish to offer???

PASSIONS & INTERESTS FOR:



PASSIONS, FASCINATIONS & INTEREST AREAS

FIND

THEIR

PASSION

- MAKE LIFE WORTH LIVING...
- SO WHY WOULD WE TAKE THEM AWAY FROM AN INDIVIDUAL?
- ASSIST TO SUPPORT STUDENTS WITH LEARNING, BEHAVIOR & TRANSITION

LET'S PUT THEM TO GOOD USE!!!

THE POWER OF USING PASSIONS, FASCINATIONS AND INTERESTS

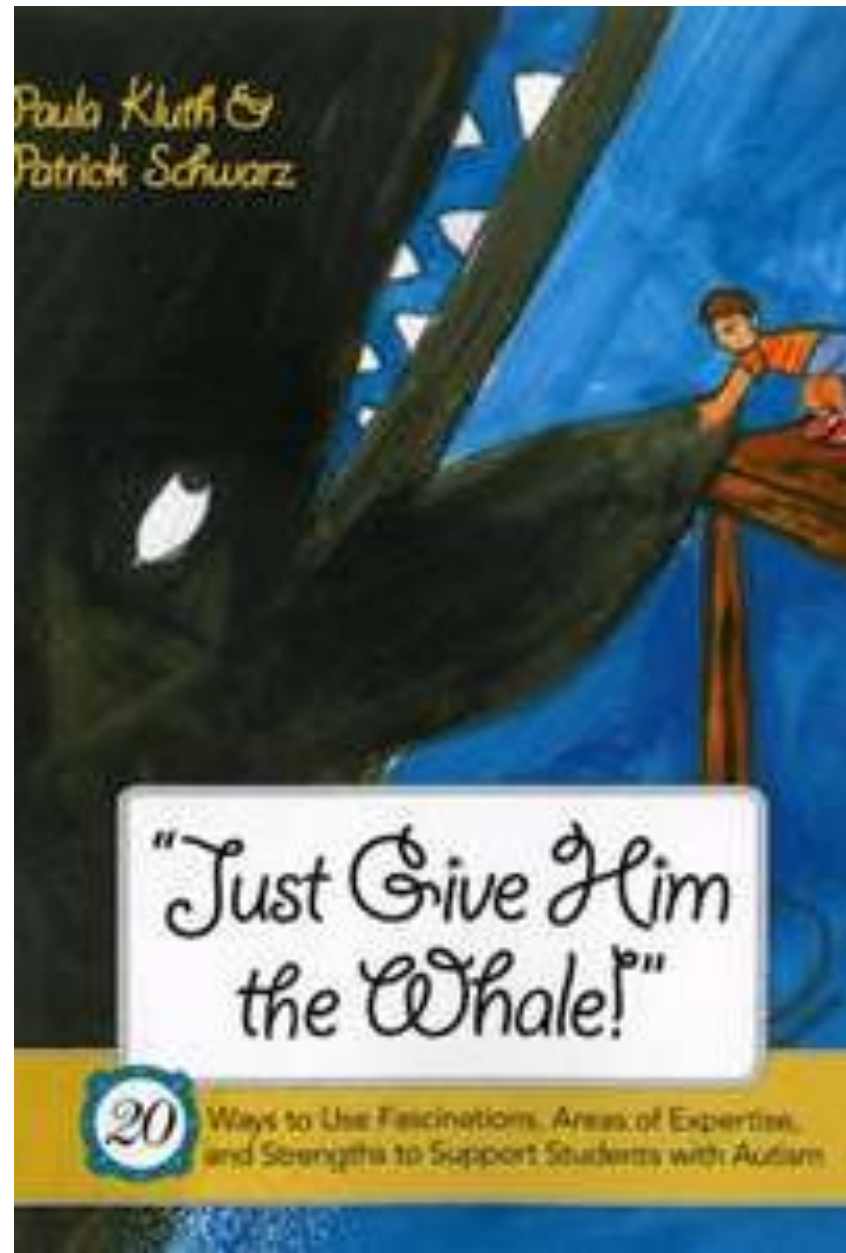
▶ THEY CAN BE USED:

- To develop a relationship with an individual
- To expand social opportunities and positive relationships
- To expand communication skills and opportunities
- To help minimize anxiety
- To plan for inclusive opportunities
- To build expertise
- To boost learning
- To comfort
- To encourage risk taking
- To let individuals shine and showcase talents
- To give individuals power
- To teach manners, cooperation and empathy
- To inspire career ideas
- To encourage greatness
- To make life worth living



To Develop a Relationship with an Individual

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- INVITE A JUVENILE FOR A BREAKFAST, LUNCH OR SNACK MEETING. FIND OUT THEIR INTERESTS
- SURVEY INDIVIDUALS ABOUT THEIR FAVORITE THINGS (The *Just Give Him the Whale* book has a sample survey)
- SHARE YOUR OWN INTERESTS WITH OTHERS



What have you done to develop a relationship with an individual you serve to provide understanding and trust? What are ways you could enhance this area?

Alfie Kohn says this is the most important thing that an adult service provider does with an individual they serve. Please share at least one way you have accomplished this endeavor or would like to enhance what you are currently doing.

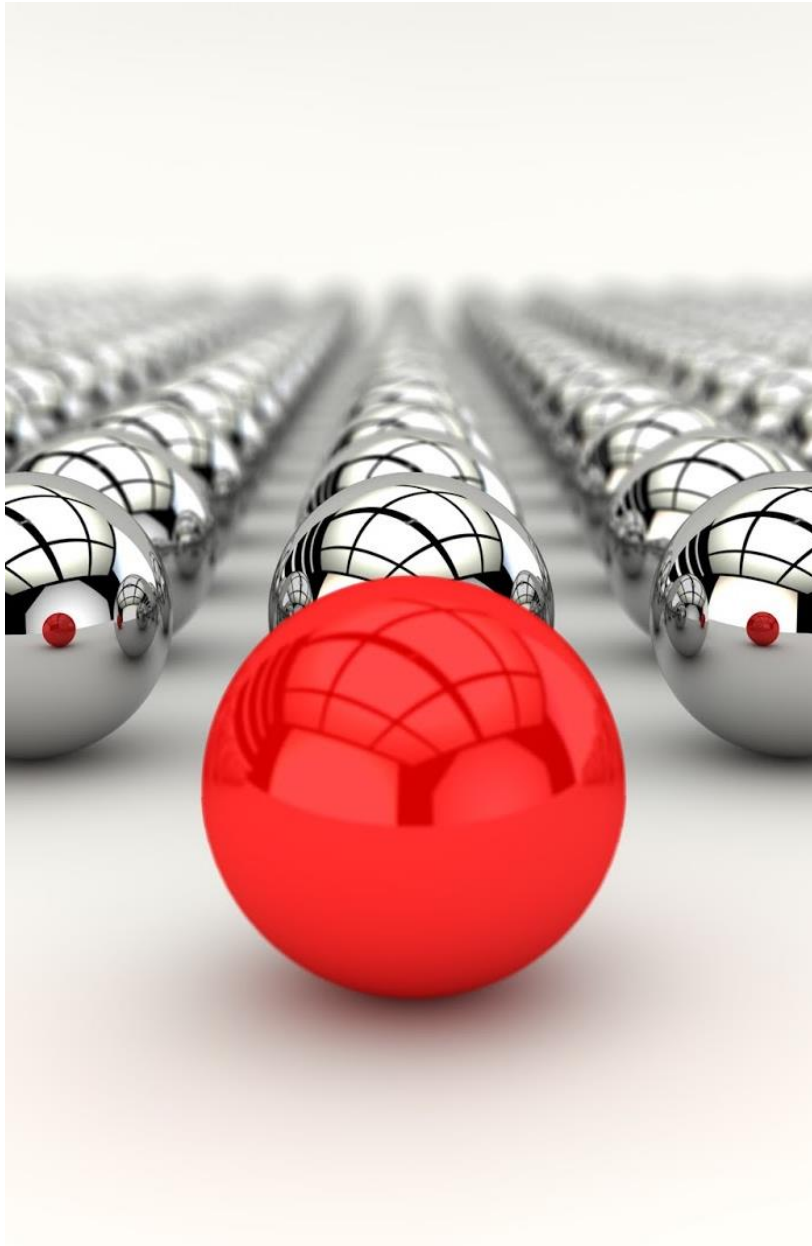


POLL
CHOCOLATE!!!

To Expand Communication Skills and Opportunities

- If you work with a juvenile who needs communication supports, tie in what they are communicating to their passion and interest area
- In educational settings, tie in juvenile passions, fascinations and interest areas with lesson content
- Tie in desk work with the passion or interest area (eg.), photos, materials, technology, etc.





To Inspire Ideas for the Future

Max: A unique interest

Any examples you have of unique interests?



To Help Minimize Anxiety and Comfort

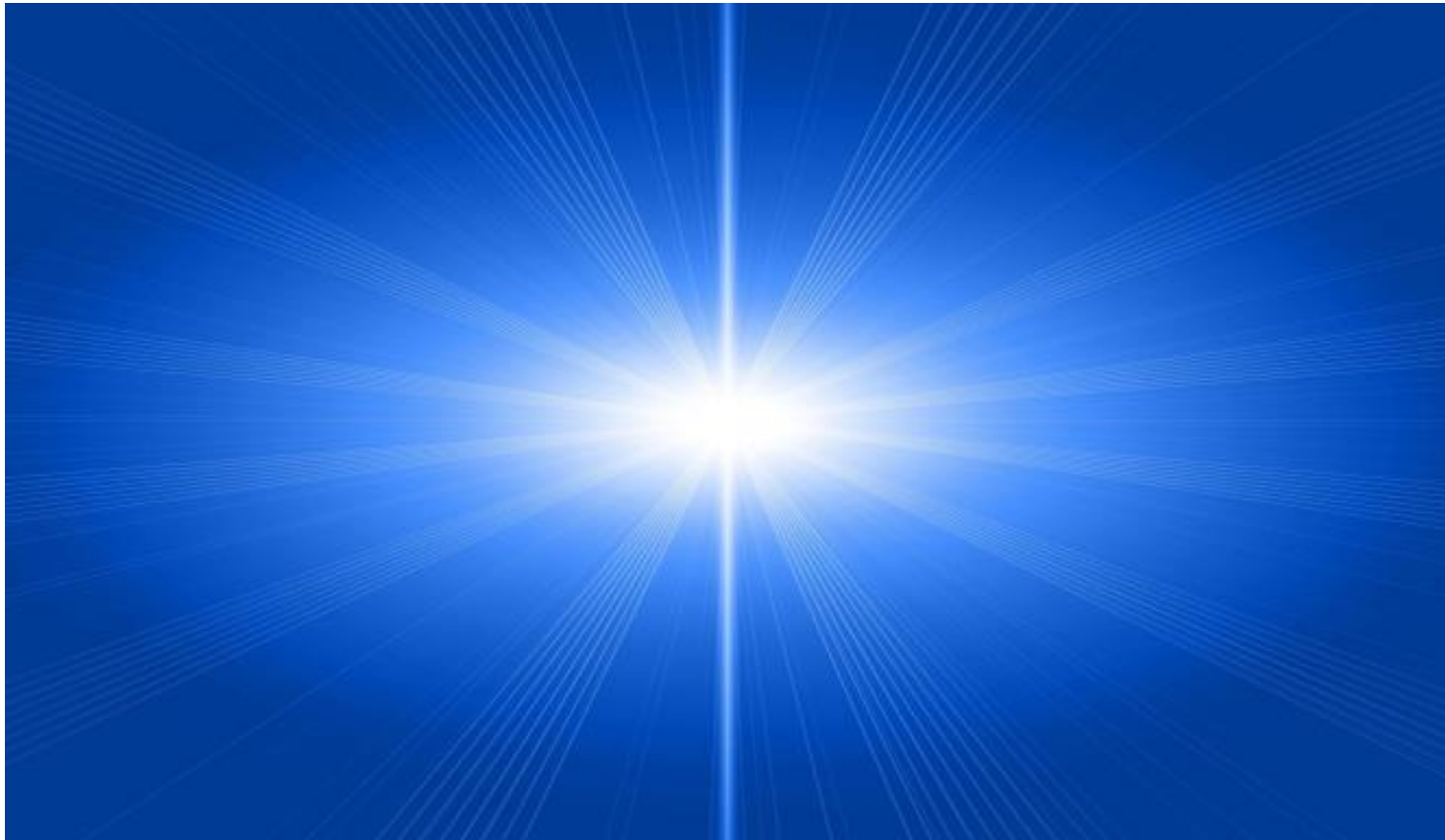
Janelle: Creating a support plan around the individual that involved communication, self-advocacy and a passion/interest. What have you done in this area for juveniles?



To Encourage Risk Taking

- Tie in the interest or passion with something that is difficult for the individual to perform to encourage new behaviors or experiences. For example, having a shy individual ask a librarian to help find books on their favorite topic
- Keep a grab bag of inspiration that may help an individual try something new. For example, a person who loves trains might have encouraging notes in the grab bag with train pictures on them such as “You can do it,” “Go for it,” and/or “I believe in you.”

To Let Individuals Shine and Showcase Talents



- Plan a “tell us what you know” talent show that focuses on individual areas of expertise. Individuals can present something and/or answer questions
- Consider having Individuals develop a portfolio about their interest area
- Develop study centers about the various passions/interests and relate individual passions to the related study center.

HOW DO YOU:

LET JUVENILES SHINE AND
ENCOURAGE GREATNESS???





To Give Individuals Power

- Create power cards that relate to the individual's passion. For example, one individual has a card for introductions with a photo of Nicki Minaj, his favorite singer. The card reads:
 1. Smile
 2. Shake the person's hand
 3. Say "hi, I am Sam."
- Keep power cards in convenient areas such as a desk or storage area
- Power cards can be used for teaching an individual new things or can reinforce previous routines.

To Give Individuals Power

- Create power cards that relate to the individual's passion. For example, one juvenile has a card for introductions with a photo of Nicki Minaj, his favorite rap artist/singer. The card reads:
 1. Smile
 2. Shake the person's hand
 3. Say "hi, I am Sam."
- Keep power cards in convenient areas such as a desk or storage area
- Power cards can be used for teaching academic skills and content



To Encourage Greatness



Consider

Consider connecting individuals to people who have careers and/or hobbies that relate to the interests and passions. Individuals can connect with and learn from these people.

Teach

Teach individuals about people that have a disability who have done great things with their lives. For example, Temple Grandin and her successful career in animal sciences

Have

Have individuals draw, write and/or verbally what they want to do with their life and their passion someday



PUTTING THESE BELIEFS AND PRACTICES TO LIFE

THE STORY OF MY SON: DAN

I REMEMBER WHEN I WAS A TEENAGER



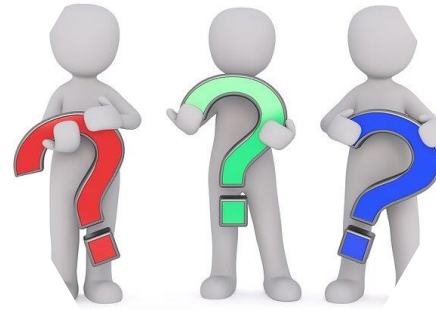
- My biggest crush was on?
- My greatest moment was?
- My most embarrassing moment was?
- Something I needed support with was?
- Currently, what are examples of supports in our everyday lives?

To Make Life Worth Living

- Educate those in the individual's life about the joy and satisfaction that fascinations can bring. Promote value even to unusual interests
- Encourage individuals to advocate for their right to their passions
- Ask individuals what makes them happy and do everything you can to bring it into their services and supports!



Comments
encouraged!



ANY:

- LAST TIPS, QUESTIONS, COMMENTS OR OTHER INPUT???

THANK YOU!!!

