



My name is Kyle Moriarty. I am twenty years old and a registered voter in the state of Vermont. I attend Montpelier High School, where I am an honor student and an honorary member inducted into the National Honor Society. I have attended regular classes with an adult facilitator for support. I am a member of the Facilitated Communication Task Force.



As a new facilitated communication user there was a new world opening up, the ability to truly communicate my thoughts, new facilitators that wanted and were challenged with learning to facilitate. Anxiety and excitement to proceed through the different levels of facilitated communication. There were so many things to learn, share and experience.



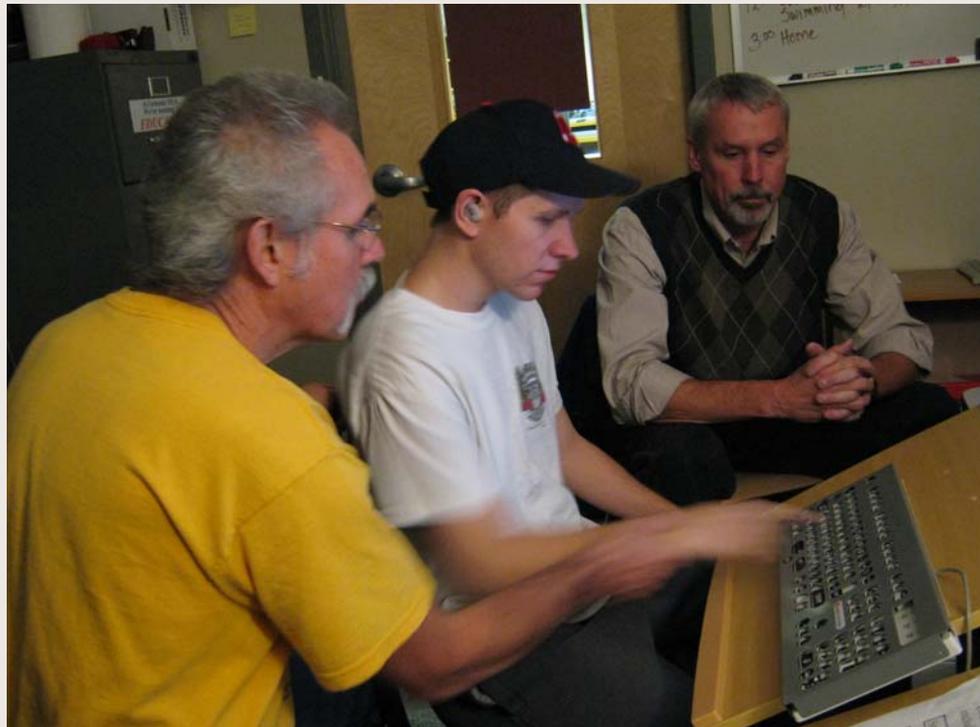


I had a voice for the first time. Isolating my finger, controlling my environment to allow my body to function' Teaching the people around me what works and what doesn't, are some of the challenges in learning to communicate.



My typing is influenced by where my body is physically and emotionally. If I cannot control my body, then I cannot control my typing.

I think that everyone has great interest in facilitation. It is in the much needed training that is important. Better time rolling out words if the facilitator is trained. I would say that each person is different and learns at their own pace. With training people learn the skills needed to communicate effectively.





I gear up when the facilitator needs more practice. Gearing up is my anxiety going up the scale of high tension and opportunities for clear typing is limited. I need facilitators that can remain calm, patient, and can think on their feet supporting me through the anxiety.





It is really the understanding that we have the ability to think, feeding the thoughts through the facilitator is the problem. Facilitators need to be very careful to not negatively influence me or speak for me they need to let me pass my own thoughts.



The attitude of he can't speak, he doesn't know, I think that people become the judge of a person because of the look of that person.

The important thing to remember is that non speaking people have lots to say and all we need is people to take the time to hear our thoughts.



I want to feel the movements, very important the facilitator deals nice slow movements, forming words, it's not how fast it gets done. It's hard to produce real thoughts when we are not slowed totally down. I get so wound up if the facilitator doesn't slow me down.

The facilitators need to be slow, calm and able to let the users dictate the volume of typing done.



Planning out the time with facilitation teacher is the only way it will allow the new person to learn. I think that new facilitators need to learn dealing with autism takes time, sensory issues are not in our control. The facilitators need to spend time practicing their level of facilitation everyday. They need to spend time with the facilitation teacher to improve and go to the next level of facilitation. It is really easy to stay at the comfortable level, but in order for us to head down the road to independence, the facilitators needs to be taught the next steps.





Facilitation is not a sit down learn the technique and do it. There are many levels, many techniques that you need to learn to function daily and know that sometimes it just will take more time.



I am going to college to become an advocate for people with autism. I want to share my experiences and knowledge of what works and what doesn't. I will have independent typing skills one day, I am thinking that I will train others to type someday. I want more than anything to not allow others to go without a voice, in having a voice they are able to have a future.