

Speech Dude: The Freedom Series

**Empowering independence and untethered learning for
students with moderate to severe disabilities
(extensive support needs)**

Chris Wenger, CCC-SLP
Chaffey Joint Unified School District
California

Jennifer Courduff, Ph.D.
Azusa Pacific University

Why the freedom series? It all started with Chris' Instagram post a while back.....



88 likes

speechdude From working here at Rancho High, I've run across a huge variety of kids. There are quiet kids and loud kids, athletes and non athletes, smart kids and happy kids and competitive kids. I've seen it all here at this high school.

The cool thing about all these kids is that it's all okay. They are all kids who just want to be happy.

So no matter what kid comes through my door, I try to make them happy. That will always be the resonating theme in my class. .

[#education](#) [#motivation](#) [#motivationalquotes](#)

SOME KIDS ARE **SMARTER** THAN YOU,
SOME KIDS HAVE **cooler clothes** THAN YOU,
SOME KIDS ARE **BETTER AT SPORTS** THAN YOU.

IT DOESN'T MATTER.

YOU HAVE *your* **THING** TOO.

BE THE KID WHO CAN **GET ALONG.**

BE THE KID WHO IS *generous.*

BE THE KID WHO IS *happy* FOR OTHER PEOPLE.

BE THE KID WHO DOES THE **RIGHT THING.**

be the nice kid.

- Bryan Skavnak -

- ❖ Freedom to be who you are.
- ❖ Freedom to see ability instead of disability
- ❖ Joy!



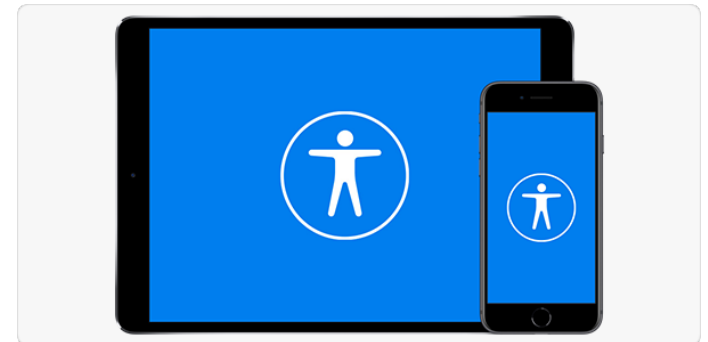
Untethered learning

What is it? The ability to learn anytime, anywhere!

How we do it!

Tool 1: Mobile devices

Strategy: Select supportive features/apps that target their needs, such as *Communication, Writing, Reading and Accessibility* **Please refer to previous *SpeechDude* webinars and accessibility webinars for detailed accessibility features and other useful apps and resources!



Pic Collage

- Easy to visually summarize
- Make associations
- Expand categories
- Engagement!
- Very user-friendly for ALL learners



Pic Collage

Insert examples of how it can be used here.

Possibly a live demo. (Reflector to mirror screen for demo - do a test run prior)

Co: Writer

- Topic based dictionary
- Grammar support
- Build in text-to-speech
- Aids with phonetic/inventive spelling, grammar, and topic-related vocab.



Co:Writer®

Example:

Before - The blk jargon fluw over the lfnt.

After: The black dragon flew over the elephant.

Co:Writer



<https://learningtools.donjohnston.com/product/cowriter/>

Untethered learning



Why we do it:

- Puts the control into the hands of the students
- Supporting enthusiasm for learning
- Teaching students to be creative in thinking and problem solving

Communication tools

- At school
- At home
- For transition from high school to *whatever is next*



Custom Boards

- Simple board and activity creator
- Create visual supports in minutes
- Helps plan, organize and build thinking skills
- Over 15k symbols
- Add ANY image



Custom Boards



For Parents

Fully customizable schedules and labels. Create books, greeting cards w/ simple templates. Everyday is an exercise in creativity.



For Special Ed Teachers

Spice up your class w/ awesome word walls, clever classroom signs, fun holiday student artifacts. Easy to create your own visually stunning worksheets, homework, or games!

Custom Boards

Apple
www.apple.com

Activities
& Games

Devices &
Switches

Signs &
Labels

Grids &
Boards

Schedules
& Calendars

Work
sheets



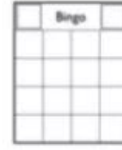
An old lady



Articulation Sheet



Big Center



Bingo



Bingo



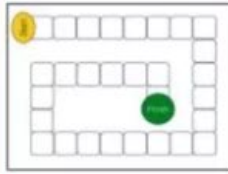
Bingo



Bingo



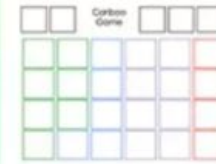
Board Game Clouds



Board Game Simple



Board Game(Simple)



Cariboo Game



Christmas Tree



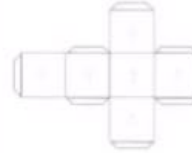
Circle of Friends



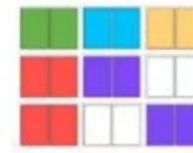
Circle Organizer



Connecting the Dots



Dice



Dominoes



Family Tree



- Great for targeting transition
- Targets real-world scenarios without real-world consequences
- 50+ interactive games, 2000 lessons and 800+ videos
- Visual and engaging

Link to ALL topics bit.ly/2IluG4H

Social media to foster independence

What?

- Instagram
- Facebook
- Twitter

Why?

- They use it!

How?

Discussing social media is prime territory for understanding:

- metalinguistics: how text and photo-based communication may not carry the intended message due to lack of inflection, etc
- narrative language: what is the story of this communication? Could it comprise an initiating event that changes someone's thoughts/feelings
- hidden rules/curriculum: what are the overall unwritten guidelines about engaging in texting and other forms of social media?

On the varsity team and got a home run every game.



Social media continued

Pinterest: great place for students to pin ideas, thoughts, things they enjoy working on.

Exar



Special Education Tips, Tricks, and Tool

35 Pins · 144 followers

Tips, tricks, forms and strategies to help support those of us in the field of special education, or those of us who support students who have different learning needs.

Your Pins More ideas Activity

Q Ideas you might love

- Vestibular activities kids
- Iphone tricks and tips
- Auditory processing disorder
- Vestibular disorder
- Tactile sensory activities
- Sensory processing disorder

Emily Borgen Waters

IEP GOALS Binder

- Organizes students' goals & objectives
- Organizes goal data collection
- Simple forms to record goal trials and progress
- Gives both you and your paras quick and easy access for lesson planning, meeting prep, progress monitoring, and progress reports
- Assists in trial planning

I don't know how I functioned WITHOUT...

Emily Borgen Waters

25 Dollar Store Teacher Tips You Prob Haven't Seen...

QUIZIZZ

Gamify your classroom!!

Interactive + engaging

Tailor to **own needs**

Insert your own pictures

Answers can be **images!**

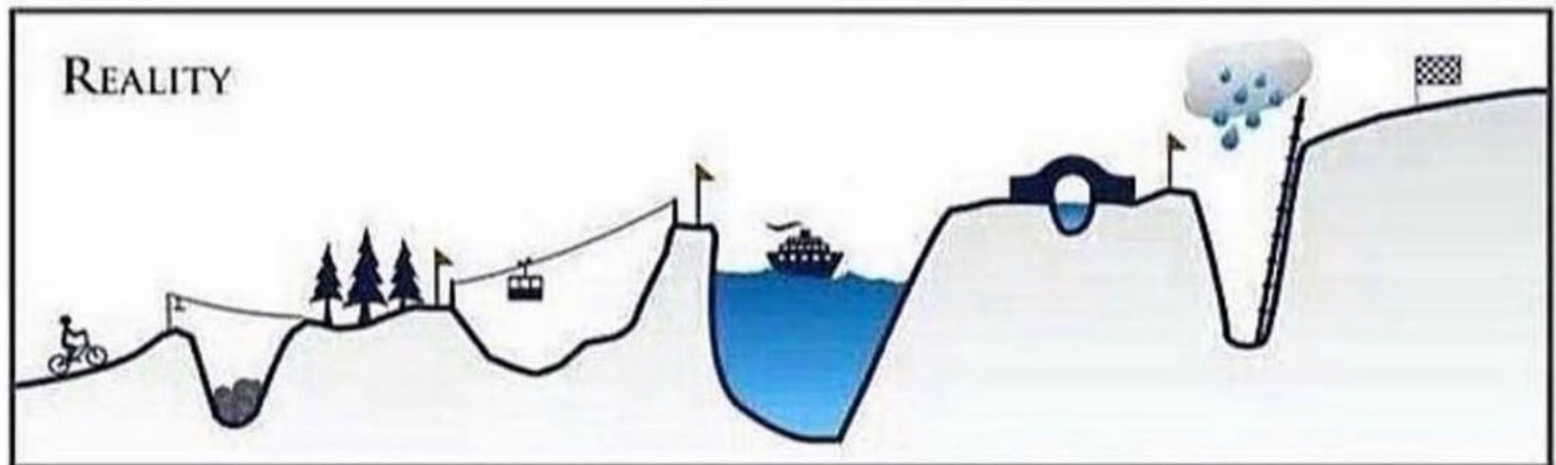
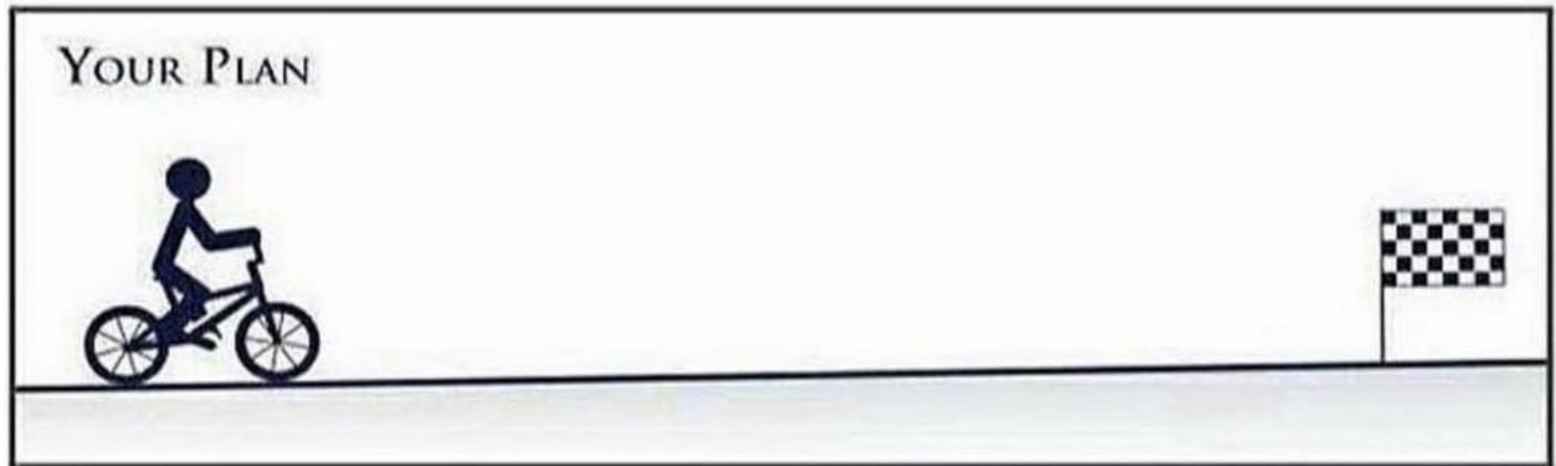
Any device with internet

Don't need login, just pin

Multiple answers

It's **FREE!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Implementation...we are not
saying it's easy...



...but it's
doable in
small steps



Contact information

– Chris Wenger

- www.speechdude.com
- christopher.wenger@cjuhsd.net
- [twitter@speechdude](https://twitter.com/speechdude)



– Jennifer Courduff

- jcourduff@apu.edu
- [twitter @gamine64](https://twitter.com/gamine64)



Jennifer Courduff

@gamine64

Ph.D. Education technology and learning
freak