



When I Grow Up...



A Collection of Disability Success Stories

***Sponsored by VOICE
(Victor Outreach in Children's Education)***



When I grow up, I might become the President



Do you know Franklin D. Roosevelt? When he was 39 years old, he was stricken with polio which paralyzed his lower body and confined him to a wheel chair. Do you think that stopped his dream? No. He was elected President in 1932 and served four terms as one of our greatest presidents.

When I grow up, I might become a teacher



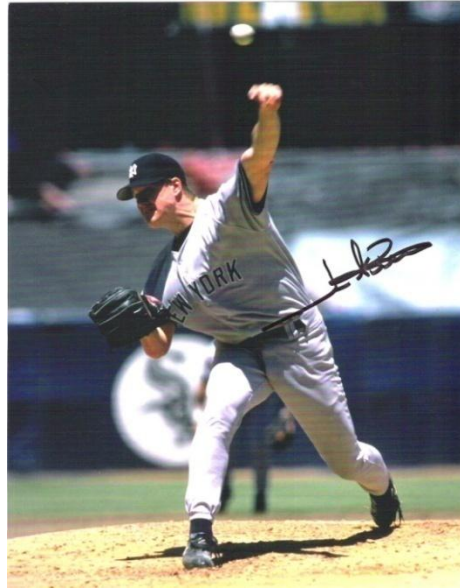
Do you know Helen Keller? At 19 months of age, Keller lost her ability to hear, see, and later speak, but dreams never died. She became a gifted educator and world leader.

When I grow up, I could be a Teacher of the Year



Do you know Brad Cohen? He has Tourette Syndrome (TS) which is a neurological disorder. It took 25 interviews, but he continued to dream and convinced a principal to hire him. Cohen was named Sallie Mae's "First Year Teacher of the Year" for the state of Georgia for demonstrating outstanding teaching and positive role model skills.

When I grow up, I might become a baseball player.



Do you know Jim Abbott? He was born with no use of his left hand. Do you think that stopped his dream? He pitched in the Olympics and even pitched a no-hitter for the New York Yankees.

When I grow up, I might work at Wegmans.



Do you know J-Mac! Jason McElwain has autism. Though he was cut from the high school basketball team, he was welcomed as team manager. In 2006, he played a game as a senior for four minutes and scored an amazing 20 points. He now works at Wegmans and is a motivational speaker on disability awareness.

When I grow up, I might be a surfer



Do you know Bethany Hamilton? In 2003, at only age 13, she was already known in the surfing world before being attacked by a shark and lost her left arm. Not even that stopped her dream! In 2005, at the first stop on a top professional surfing tour, she took first place! She has also won an ESPY Award for Best Comeback Athlete and a special Courage Award at the 2004 Teen Choice Awards.

When I grow up, I might work in Hollywood



Almost everyone knows Tom Cruise. Cruise says he was labeled Dyslexic when he was 7 years old. He would try to concentrate on what he was reading and he would get to the end and have very little memory of what he'd read. He could go blank, feel anxious, nervous, bored, and frustrated. He didn't let that stop his dreams. Cruise reportedly earned more than 30 million dollars in 2007.

When I grow up, I could also work in the TV industry



Do you know Chris Burke? His parents encouraged him to follow his career objectives and he landed a role as Charles "Corky" Thatcher on the television series Life Goes On.

When I grow up, I might become a musician



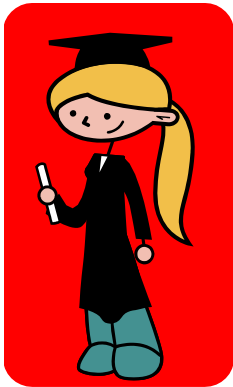
Do you know Stevie Wonder? Even though he was Blind from birth, Wonder signed with Motown Records at the age of eleven, and continues to perform and record for the label. He has recorded more than thirty U.S. top ten hits and won twenty-two Grammy Awards, the most ever won by a solo artist.

When I go to college, I might become a wrestler.



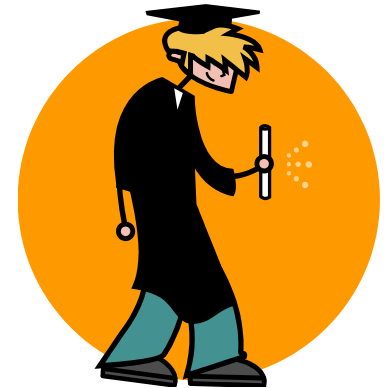
Do you know Kyle Maynard? He was born with rare condition called congenital amputation or shortened limbs. Do you think that stopped his dream? He was a college wrestler at the University of Georgia. In 2004, Kyle won the Espy award as the nation's top disabled athlete. He has also written a book, modeled for Vanity Fair and Abercrombie & Fitch, and appeared on national television.

When I grow up...



I can be like President Roosevelt, Helen Keller, Jim Abbott, or Bethany Hamilton. What do you think they all had in common?

They had a dream and the ability to focus on their strengths to adapt and overcome challenges. They also worked hard and had strong support from their friends and families.



How do I learn more about these Disability Success Stories?

We have the information right at our fingertips. You can find more information on these roles models at:



You can also search on names such as Bob Dole, William Hoy, Bethany Hamilton, Rick Allen, Stephan Jenkins, Keira Knightly, Marlee Matlin, Ray Charles, Oscar Pistorius, Stephen Hopkins, Homer, Alexander Graham Bell, Kevin Laue, Amanda Baggs, Dick Hoyt, Natalie du Toit, or Patrick Henry Hughes for other motivating disability success stories.

VOICE

***Fostering Attainable Achievement for all Students because
All Lives have Equal Value.***

VOICE members include parents, teachers, administrators, and community members who are dedicated to the education of all students with an emphasis on advocating for students with special needs. VOICE works to:

- Foster open and positive communications between school and home.
- Raise disability awareness and sensitivity in the community.
- Provide mutual support to parents, students, and teachers.
- Receive updates on special education law.
- Plan proactively and develop advocacy skills to meet students' needs.

For more information, please VOICE at vcsvoice@live.com or you can access our website at:

<http://teachersites.schoolworld.com/webpages/KPartington/>

