

Dean's Story

Hello my name is Dean and I am 34 years old. I live with my Dad who takes care of me. I find it difficult to talk, although can understand things, this is very frustrating for me. Although at home we usually manage to find out what I mean and we are able to laugh at this it can be very difficult outside, so I only go out with my family, or with my PA Dave who I have a very good relationship with. Until two and a half years ago I attended a day centre but eventually found that my needs were not being met there. I now spend 15 hours a week with Dave and we have visited transport museums, the seaside and the JamesBondMuseum. We had a really good day out at the Navy Day in Portsmouth last year. I enjoy my time with Dave

If there was one thing that you wish people better understood about your specific type of disability, what would it be?

People I know realise that although I seem a little childlike I am actually an adult who has a sense of humour and values being included in conversations. It may take longer but if people get to know me they will appreciate this. I feel this is a problem for people with my condition and people need to be educated that just because we communicate differently, we are still people and should be treated as such.

One thing that people can do to make other people who have your type of disability feel more included, whether it is at work, school, or another community organization would be...

Get to know people like me and the different methods of communicating with us so that we can become part of your community.

What would you say is your greatest source of pride?

I had a job for two years in a factory which I loved but the factory closed. I would like another opportunity like this one day but would need a caring environment to work in.

I am also very good at computer games, pool and darts which I do with my Mencap worker