

# Christine's Chronicles: Our real problem

**My sister Stacy said something quite eye-opening to my mother. It reminded my family again why inclusion is so important and I thought I'd share it with you all.**



by Christine Lindauer

After reading my blog post last month on the “R-Word”, my sister Stacy said something quite eye-opening to my mother. It reminded my family again why inclusion is so important and I thought I'd share it with you all.

After my mother asked her what she thought of my post, Stacy said “I know Luke has problems, like I used to.”

Like I used to – wow.

So what does that say to me, that 1 – my sister believes that when she was in school (in a segregated classroom), she had “problems” and 2 – now that my sister is an adult living as a fully participating member of our family, she believes she no longer has “problems”.

My sister viewed herself as being different, having problems, just like everyone else at school probably viewed her. What sort of self-esteem issues did that cause? And after 12 years of being reminded everyday that you are different, do you think some of those issues still might linger?

Well, it's been almost 20 years since Stacy graduated from high school, and she is right. She doesn't have any problems. She has a strong supportive network of family and friends who love her. She has a part-time job working for the family business (that she'll sometimes complain about but I know she likes). She is a terrific aunt to my son and the other children in our family. They all adore her.

So once again, I am reminded of why I need to make inclusion a priority for my son. And how many other children are out there now, feeling excluded, thinking they have problems? But that's where you come in – you are all out there trying to solve the real problem – by providing supports to our teachers and administrators to create quality inclusive programs. So let me say thank you from all the parents out there. Now get back to work! :)

### **Community Question**

Do any of you have advice or experiences to share on how to talk to children to counteract the self-esteem issues that could arise for them in the future?

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### **Children with disabilities**

Children with disabilities deserve to be educated as well. Parents must treat them like normal kids for them not to feel insecure. But talking about education, as though health care reform wasn't enough, Congress wants to vamp up education funding as well. Granted, student loans are a horrible debt trap that you can't even discharge in bankruptcy. The [student loan bill](http://personalmoneystore.com/[...]/) was a rider on the health care bill, and it passed with it – and the Department of Education could be taking over administration of the loans, rather than underwriting loans from private sources. A lot of grads end up needing payday cash advances to keep up on student loan payments as it is, and considering the efficacy of No Child Left Behind, I am not certain how much I actually trust the DOE.

Reply

### **inclusion**

Christine I think it is great that you shared this blog with everyone! I am going to be starting my internship at an inclusion school in the fall working with 2 year olds and this really helps motivate me. I am excited to be working with children in an inclusion setting because I am want to be someone to help create the quality inclusive programs you are looking for!

Reply