

Module 3 Handout: Describing Our Children

from Strully & Strully, (1989)

Daughter #1

Description:

- 15 1/2 years old
- Beautiful brown eyes and brown hair
- Favorite musicians and musical groups are Bruce Springsteen, Tiffany, U2, Bangles and Madonna
- Her favorite movie stars re: Rob Lowe, Matt Dillon, and Matthew Broderick.
- She is a sophomore at Arapahoe High School.
- She tried out for cheerleaders, but didn't like it.
- She works part-time in shopping malls, at Burger King and 7-Eleven Food Store, the gym, and anywhere there are boys!
- She spends time on the phone talking to friends.
- She loves swimming and getting a tan. She loves to decorate her room, including the ceiling, with posters.
- Friends are very important to her.
- Extracurricular activities have included signs and posters, gourmet cooking,
- Girl Scouts, and the high school newspaper.
- She is caring, bright, and very typical.
- When you ask her friends to describe her, they say:
- Happy, exciting, pretty, silly, normal, wonderful, intriguing, engaging, unique, fun, enjoyable, stubborn, great, laughable, caring, annoying, energetic, picky, fickle, affectionate, pushy, lovable, decisive, sensitive, strong-willed, temperamental, spontaneous, diplomatic, terrific.

Desirable Future:

- Living with someone who cares about her
- Doing some things during the day that she likes to do
- Having lots of friends to do things with
- Living in her own condo
- Being around people who want to be with her

- Having friends over every day to do “stuff” with
 - Being happy
 - Going to college
 - Modeling for a fashion magazine
 - Working in a job that she likes and that makes money
-

Daughter #2

Description:

- Severely/Profoundly retarded
- Hearing impaired
- Visually impaired
- Has cerebral palsy
- Myoclonic seizures
- Does not chew her food and sometimes chokes
- Is not toilet trained
- No verbal communication
- No reliable gestural communication
- If given the chance, will self-stimulate, mainly hand-in-eye and hand-in-mouth
- If given a developmental checklist, would “top out” at 17-24 months
- Loves Fisher Price™ toys
- Loves music – “Row, Row, Row Your Boat” “Three Blind Mice”; London Bridge

Desirable Future:

Thinking about a desirable future for our second daughter is more difficult for most people. They might dream about her future in the following ways:

- Group home with six or eight other people
- Sheltered workshop—day activity center
- Special Olympics
- Volunteers to ‘work” with her
- Need for programming
- Group field trips
- Friends to be with her who are just “like” her