

Tracy's Story

My Job as a Facilitated Communication Consultant by Tracy Thresher

I am Tracy Thresher and I am going to share my experiences as a Consultant with you. A Consultant is a specialist, an expert. It is someone who is an expert about something and gives advice. They come in and work with people on a specific project, rather than on a regular basis. This is my full-time job.

I work for the Facilitated Communication (FC) Institute in Syracuse, NY. It is a great place for people to learn about going through the process of facilitated communication. There you work to develop the skills to become great at typing.

Facilitated Communication (FC) is one form of communication helps some people with labels of autism and other developmental disabilities to express their selves. It involves learning to communicate by typing on a keyboard or pointing at letters, images, or other symbols to represent messages. FC involves a combination of physical and emotional support.



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What did Tracy do?

The work that I have done with young students, like Kyle Moriarty, has helped him start to be a presenter and to advocate for himself. We co-presented to his 7th and 8th grade class about autism and movement issues. This helped him start his journey to self-advocacy and telling his story. I was happy to help him tell his story about autism and make people understand that we are intelligent and have something to say.

I have traveled to a great many places where I have presented at conferences about topics such as self-



advocacy, the right to communicate, autism and movement differences. I have had the great privilege to be a lead trainer and presenter while working with people like Harvey Lavoy Pascal Cheng, and Marilyn Chadwick from the FC institute. I have so many great stories going to Syracuse and working with people like Marilyn.

The best thing about doing this work is knowing that I am helping people to communicate through typing their words. This is the greatest work that I could do as a self-advocate.

The opportunity to help change the way that people look at people with speech and movement problems and

open their eyes to the person that lies within is very rewarding work.



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What are some of the things Tracy's story makes us think about?



How do people communicate with each other?

And you?

How do you feel about communicating with someone who is using a talker or facilitated communication?



What is prejudice?

And you?

Have you ever felt prejudiced toward others?
How about others toward you?



What are some ways that people show that they accept a person?
What about when they don't accept someone?

And you?

Did you feel accepted at school?
At work?
By your community?

Everyone has something to give to their community. Some people need help to learn how to show people what they're capable of.