



How a Parent Facilitated Classmate Relationships

Transcript

Josie (parent of Jonathan): So I thought, “Well--so what if we have to set this up artificially!” And then, after a few years went by and some of the girls and boys in Jonathan’s class got their driver’s licence, then it was great because then they could come and take him for a drive. A few times I hired them to take him to West Mabou cottages and stay the night in the cottages. And I only paid one person for that, but I said, “Now, invite other people, have beer if you want.” You know--they were old enough at that time that they could do those things. Other times, I hired somebody to take Jonathan camping and they would go to West Mabou beach or the campground over there as well—just to have that experience with guys his own age. So the fellow that I hired, he would bring in some friends--they were also Jonathan’s classmates--and that seemed to bond these people together, these young men, guys, together.

And then Jonathan had friends at school—Marigold was one of them, and Krystal, and there were several young girls as well. And because John and I would go out from time to time and would ask them to come in--and then after that, eventually, Jonathan would just say, “I’d like to go out to... I’d like to take Marigold to the mall. Or I’d like Marigold to take me to the mall. (He always he wanted Marigold to pay!) Or Chris or someone like that. And then eventually, after Jonathan left school and moved to L’Arche Cape Breton and Marigold went to university and a lot of his friends went away, they came home at Christmastime or in the summer and Jonathan would call them or they would call him and they would do things together. And they still do.

(With thanks to Josie MacEachern and to L’Arche Cape Breton for videotaping.)

