

Ben D. Anderson founder of Break Through has a wide range of school programs and presentations for students, teachers and staff and parents/families.



He focuses on disability sensitivity, diversity, and motivation. He has done speaking, training, and instructor in-service training at all levels of education. Since Ben has had a much broader range of education than most of us can experience, he has some interesting insights for both students and instructors. He has a degree in vocational rehabilitation with an emphasis on community based rehab. He will tell his story and have Q &A with parents. Visit his website at

www.bendanderson.com

When "Ben Presents Ben" He...

- Tells it like it is (and was) from the perspective of a real kid.
- Helps build self-esteem, self-confidence, and hope.
- Shows how important it is to "Never Give Up!"
- Helps those who have "been there" to see how they can "get out of their boxes" and helps those who haven't "been there" to learn how to relate more helpfully to those who have.
- Increasingly students with disabilities and those without are walking the same hallways, sitting in the same classes, and participating in the same activities.

Fear of the unknown or unfamiliar makes it difficult for a student without a disability to relate to one with a disability;

"What is life like for her?"

" Should I feel sorry for him?"

" What could I do to help?"

" Should I ignore her so as not to embarrass her?"

And sometimes embarrassment makes it difficult for a student with a disability to escape the protective "box" they've built around themselves to join effectively with their fellow students.

Ben's presentation helps students to learn to respond constructively to such challenges and to come away with a more positive attitude toward each other. He also helps those who have been struggling with their disability to feel more effective and hopeful. In a creative, sometimes humorous, highly anecdotal presentation, Ben describes what life is like for a student growing up with cerebral palsy. He discusses where he found his strength and hope, gives tips on how to relate effectively to a person with a disability, and teaches us all that we must "Never Give Up!"

Review:

March 26, 2013

"I am pleased to be writing this letter of recommendation for Ben Anderson. I have known Mr. Anderson for several years and have enjoyed reading his books and hearing him speak.

During 2012, Mr. Anderson received two grants from the SD Council on Developmental Disabilities to provide disability awareness and bullying sessions to schools across the state. In addition, he presented at several places of worship. Mr. Anderson traveled across South Dakota during April and October 2012. He spoke to thousands of students, teachers, coaches and community members – sharing his life story and providing information on bullying and why it needs to stop.

Mr. Anderson has presented many times at conferences in South Dakota. His sessions are always educational and enjoyable as he uses humor to get his message across to everyone. Evaluations always show that people enjoy the sessions and feel they learn more about people with disabilities as a result of Mr. Anderson sharing his story.

Sincerely,-*Arlene Poncelet,Executive Director*