

In the book "Educating All Students in the "Mainstream of Regular Education" Jeff and Cindy Strully wrote a chapter on friendships as an educational goal. In this chapter they pointed out how people often describe children and dream about their futures. They gave the following examples:

**"Depending upon who is talking we have two teenage daughters. One daughter is described in the following ways:**

*Beautiful brown eyes and brown, hair*  
*Favourite musicians and musical groups are:*  
*Bruce Springsteen, Tiffany, U2, Bangles and Madonna.*  
*She will wear clothes with the following labels only:*  
*Guess® and Esprit®*  
*Her favourite movie stars are: 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 at Sound Warehouse.*  
*She "hangs out" 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 highschool 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, loveable, decisive, sensitive, strong-willed, temperamental, spontaneous, diplomatic, terrific*

**Desirable Future:**

*Hardly a day goes by without our thinking about the kind of future that we would like for our daughter. Our dreams for her are much like those outlined by her friends, including in their own words:*

*Living with someone who cares about her*  
*Doing something during the day that she likes to do*  
*Having lots of friends to do things with*  
*Living in her own condo*  
*Having an active life*  
*Being around people who want to be with her*  
*Having friends over everyday to do "stuff" with*  
*Being happy*  
*Going to college*  
*Modelling for a fashion magazine*  
*Working in a job that she likes and that makes money*

**The other daughter has been described in the following ways:**

*Severely/profoundly mentally 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 centre*  
*Special Olympics*  
*Volunteers to "work" with her*  
*Need for programming*  
*Group field trips*  
*Friends like to be with her who are just "like" her*

**These two children are the same person, our daughter Shawntell**