The Americans with Disabilities Act was signed into law on July 26, 1990. This was a landmark law protecting the rights of all Americans, living with a disability against discrimination. That same year, the first Disability Pride Day was held to commemorate the legislation and its impact throughout the country.

Meet Abby Sweet

We recently had the opportunity of interviewing Miss Abby Sweet a few weeks ago and the podcast will air in August. Born a micro preemie, Abby is a true fighter from the moment she was born. The article highlights the determination that Abby demonstrated, and the resilience she has shown throughout her life.

The BEST Together Podcast has been a lively and informative way for us to bring to you people and topics that resonate both with us personally, and with the community as a whole. Please listen and give us a review so we can reach more listeners! Feel free to reach out to us at info@bestdisabilities.org for ideas on future topics or guests. The BEST Together Podcast is available on Spotify and Apple Podcasts.

Have you heard of the Cogswell-Macy Act? If not, you aren't alone - but this current bipartisan bill could put into place much needed federal legislation for children with visual disabilities or those who are deaf, hard of hearing or deaf-blind. Please reach out to your local members of Congress and ask them to co-sponsor this bill today! Learn more in the link below.

Items in the Act that could most strongly impact families of children birth-to-three with blindness and low-vision include:

- "Require states to identify, locate, and evaluate children who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind, visually impaired, or deafblind regardless of formal disability category or classification so that all of these students, including those with additional disabilities, are counted and properly served.
- "Establish a national collaborative organizational resource, the Anne Sullivan Macy Center, to disseminate Vision Loss and Education best practices to proliferate evidence-based practices in the education of students with vision loss, to keep specialists current with the latest instructional methods, and to supplement state and local educational agencies regarding the instruction and services of the Expanded Core Curriculum."

Best Activity Corner:

DIY Comparing Bag

A great way to encourage children to figure out what fits with a DIY comparing bag.

Find a number of items at your local hardware store that vary in size, shape, and texture. Use two of each item to create a matching game as well. Place inside a comparing bag and have the child pull items out to discuss their shape, size, texture and whether they can find the match. It’s that easy.

The items to consider:
- screws
- bolts
- wooden dowels
- small balls
- carpet samples
- washers

What are we loving this month?

The Tomato pie story, songs, and your own contest contribution. We love music, and encourage you to share your own songs or stories, perhaps with someone in your own environment, with blind or low vision, and you can record your contributions on the podcast many of you are listening to, or singing back to them, and there are dozens of characters to choose from!

Best Co-Founder Featured on Channel 5 News

BEST co-founder, Stacy Cornwell, was interviewed by Channel 5 News this month as summer school wrapped up for her legally blind son. The heart-warming picture was snapped by Nathaniel’s 1st and later went viral. The photo of Nathaniel (on the left) being guided by a classroom peer (on the right) and highlights open-heartedness and purpose by both.

See the link below to watch Channel 5’s coverage.

BEST by buying on Amazon Blind Early Services TN (registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit and a recognized charity on Amazon) items you shop. Amazon gives . To learn more, visit ShelfClick.

July is Disability Pride Month

Support the Cogswell-Macy Act!