

# ? *I Wonder...* ?

Revolutionary Common Sense by Kathie Snow, [www.disabilityisnatural.com](http://www.disabilityisnatural.com)

- Since one is often called “regular ed,” I wonder why the other isn’t called “*irregular ed*,” instead of “special ed.”
- I wonder when educators who help write IEPs will read and know the provisions of special ed law like many parents do.
- I wonder when the system will change so people can get helpful assistance based on their *needs*, instead of their diagnoses.
- I wonder when all people who need communication devices/systems will acquire them, so they will no longer be denied one of our nation’s most precious freedoms: the right to free speech.
- I wonder when all people who need help with personal mobility will enjoy the freedom of independent mobility, via power wheelchairs, instead of having to be pushed by others.
- I wonder when we’ll realize all individuals with disabilities belong in their natural communities, instead of artificial, “special” environments.
- I wonder when things will change so that children with disabilities are included in their schools and communities, so they’ll have friends and get invited to birthday parties, like kids without disabilities.
- I wonder when service providers will start helping people with disabilities learn how to get their own jobs, instead of trying to get jobs *for* them, so they can become interdependent citizens in their communities, instead of dependent clients of the system.
- ? • I wonder when supports, accommodations, and assistive technology devices will be thought of as meeting a person’s “ordinary needs” instead of “special needs.”
- I wonder when service providers will see the people they serve as “customers,” instead of “consumers, “clients,” or “recipients,” and see themselves as “customer service agents.”
- I wonder when all professionals will learn to give hope to people with disabilities and family members, instead of stealing it.
- I wonder when all parents will dream big dreams for their children, so their kids will achieve long-term success as adults, and then do what it takes to turn the dream into reality.
- I wonder when we will shift from “being realistic” to “seeing possibilities.”
- I wonder when the American Psychiatric Association will add the diagnosis of “severe and chronic professionalism” to the DSM-IV, so those suffering with this affliction can receive the appropriate treatment: regular infusions of common sense.
- I wonder when individuals with disabilities will no longer consent to be used as “courageous” and “inspirational” tokens in news reports that feed the public’s need for feel-good pap.
- I wonder when the ordinary goals of many Americans—like “happiness,” “following your dreams,” and “personal well-being”—will be seen as important goals for Americans who happen to have disabilities.