



Living with Disability: Accessible and Inclusive Design from Our Perspective

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HODGES CLIENT AND FAMILY
EXPERIENCE LEAD



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Agenda Overview

- Understanding Accessibility and Inclusion
- Personal Perspectives on Accessible Design
- The Value of Purposeful Design
- Tools for Ensuring Accessibility



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Understanding Accessibility and Inclusion



Defining Accessibility and Inclusion and their Impact on Individuals

Understanding Accessibility

Accessibility means enabling individuals to easily use and access spaces and services without barriers.

Importance of Inclusion

Inclusion ensures all individuals feel welcomed and valued, fostering a sense of belonging for everyone.

Impact on Individuals

Accessibility and inclusion boost confidence, social connection, and enables active societal participation.



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Physical and Sensory Accessibility; Universal Design vs. Accessible Design

Physical Accessibility Features

Physical accessibility includes ramps, elevators, and door openers to accommodate mobility needs.

Sensory Accessibility Features

Sensory accessibility involves signage, acoustics, and lighting to support people with sensory needs.

Universal vs Accessible Design

Universal design includes everyone by default, while accessible design implies fixing barriers for some.



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Empathy, Attitudes, And Societal Change For Inclusion

Empathy in Inclusion

Empathy involves understanding and valuing the experiences and needs of all individuals in a space.

Changing Societal Attitudes

Challenging norms and biases about disability fosters a culture of belonging and inclusion for everyone.

Role of the Community

Positive attitudes of professionals, loved ones and other community members towards disability influence acceptance of accessible and inclusive design..



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Personal Perspectives on Accessible Design



Experiencing Barriers In Everyday Environments

Physical Barriers

Obstacles such as narrow pathways and steps limit mobility and comfort in public settings.

Inaccessible Furniture

Furniture height and design can prevent access, like high shelves out of reach for some users, or low tables.

Technology Accessibility Issues

Lack of accessible software and touch screen phones without tactile feedback hinder communication.



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The Value of Purposeful Design

Universal Design

What it Looks Like

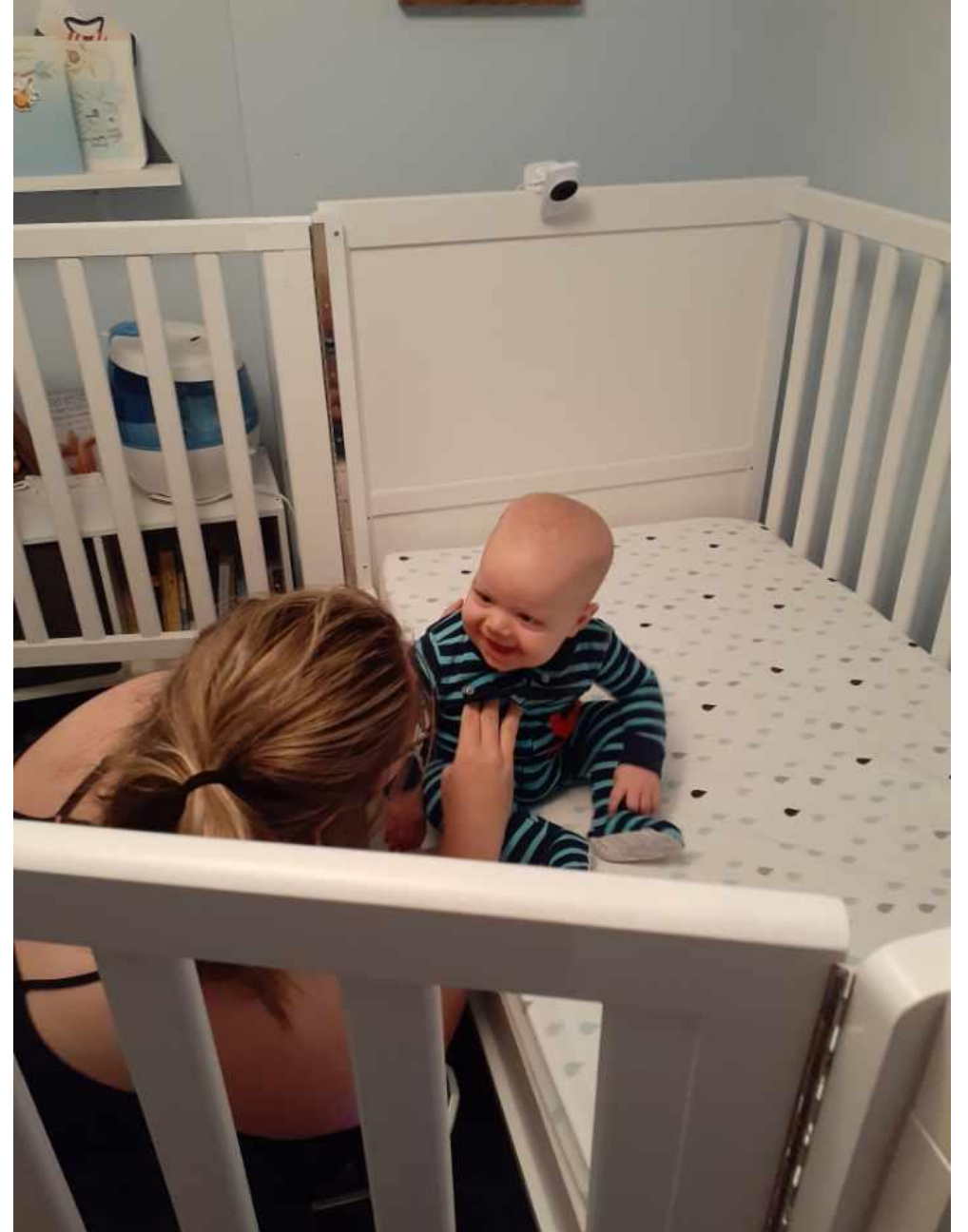
Universal design means creating environments that include everyone from the start by incorporating diverse input.

What it Feels Like

Prevents the need for expensive retrofits and helps build communities where all individuals can thrive.



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Impact Of Universal Design on Individuals with Disabilities

Promoting Independence

Accessible design provides resources that empower people with disabilities to live independently and confidently.

Equality in Interaction

Inclusive spaces allow individuals with disabilities to interact equally with others without barriers.

Practical Accessibility Features

Features like accessible washrooms and signage with alternate text reduce daily planning and promote dignity.

Environment

Thoughtful use of colors and design choices supports comfort and for everyone.



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Enhanced User Experience

Accessibility in Design

Designing public spaces with accessibility ensures that everyone can enjoy and utilize these areas effectively.

User Experience Enhancement

Focusing on user experience leads to increased satisfaction rates among visitors, fostering a positive atmosphere.

Promoting Community Engagement

Accessible public spaces encourage community engagement, bringing together diverse groups of people for various activities.



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Accessibility in Community Spaces

Inclusive Playgrounds

Playgrounds should offer accessible and interactive equipment to include children with disabilities and their peers.

Accessible Transit and Sidewalks

Transit systems must include wheelchair accessible buses, apps for riders, and paved bus stops with shelters and curb cuts.

Safe and Accessible Public Events

Event layouts should avoid barriers like power cords to ensure safety and accessibility for all attendees.

Accessible Parking and Business Services

Parking spaces must accommodate wheelchair ramps and businesses should promote accessibility info and digital menus online.

Tools for Ensuring Accessibility



Experiential Tools

Committees/Focus Groups

Create opportunities for individuals of all abilities to give feedback. Focus groups are great opportunities to do this in a welcoming space.

Accessibility Audit

There are many tools and services that business leaders can take advantage of to complete an Accessibility Audit. It can give a deep-dive look at what to consider when creating spaces for everyone.

Experiential Learning for Designers

Programs like 'Time in My Shoes' offer simulations to enhance designers' understanding of accessibility needs, with first-hand experience.



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Thank You

