



A Strengths-Based Portfolio

It's okay to be a little selfish once in a while, especially when you're talking about "strength-based portfolios". This scrapbooking tool offers students and their families an opportunity to highlight information they want to share with caregivers, school staff and friends. It provides a window into the life and experiences of an individual.

I'm sure you've had the experience of thinking you know someone fairly well and then suddenly finding out something about that person that you never knew. For students and teachers this can be particularly true. The school year is just not long enough. You've just begun to know someone when the school year ends, and then you begin the process of getting to know someone all over again. Portfolios can help bridge that gap, shorten the "get to know you" phase and, aid in transitions. Taken from a model developed by the Institute on Human Development and Disability, portfolios offer insight in a way formal assessment tools can't. They offer a glimpse into a student's personal thoughts, experiences, preferences and dreams.

FSRC is interested in offering workshops to anyone who is interested in compiling one. The workshops will provide the tools to put together a portfolio using prepared sheets and scrapbooking tools. You bring the photos! The process takes several hours; you can add to or change the portfolio at any time. Inviting a friend to assist in putting a portfolio together can also be great fun and an opportunity to connect on a more personal level. The sessions can be done as a classroom activity, after school club or social gathering.

If you are interested in learning more or would like to participate in a portfolio making session, contact Fil Clissa Inclusion Facilitator, 608/221-4611

Article taken from the Family Support and Resource Center, September, 2004 Newsletter