



Teach MEDisability: Changing How Disability is Taught in Medical School

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Introduction

- 25% of the general population identifies as disabled while only 5% of medical students identify as disabled^{1,2}.
- All future physicians will treat people with disabilities in their practice, most without having experienced disability themselves.
- Most medical science curriculums still subscribe to the medical model of disability while disability scholarship is now in favor of the social model of disability (3).
- A concrete example of the medical model in the classroom are the photos presented to teach the disability's phenotype. Photos are mostly deidentified and taken in a medical office. This means that medical students are being presented with an idea of disability that is very different from how it is lived, which will impact how those physicians treat patients with disabilities in the future.

Medical model³

- Emphasis on disability being 'wrong' or finding ways to 'fix' it.

Social model³

- Societal and environmental exclusion transforming impairment into disability.

Objectives

1. To bring the social model of disability into the medical science classroom, a photo gallery of people with disabilities will be created where the photos are submitted by individuals themselves and are set outside of the medical setting.
2. To expand student perception around what it means to live with a disability.

Methods

- Create a REDCap form using the CU photo release form,
- Reach out to advocacy organizations asking them to spread the word about the project.
- Collect photos from individuals and their families via the REDCap form.
- Upload the photos into a CU SharePoint site accessible only to those with CU login credentials.
- Promote the website to medical science course and content directors.

Deliverables



Public site

Teachmedisability.com



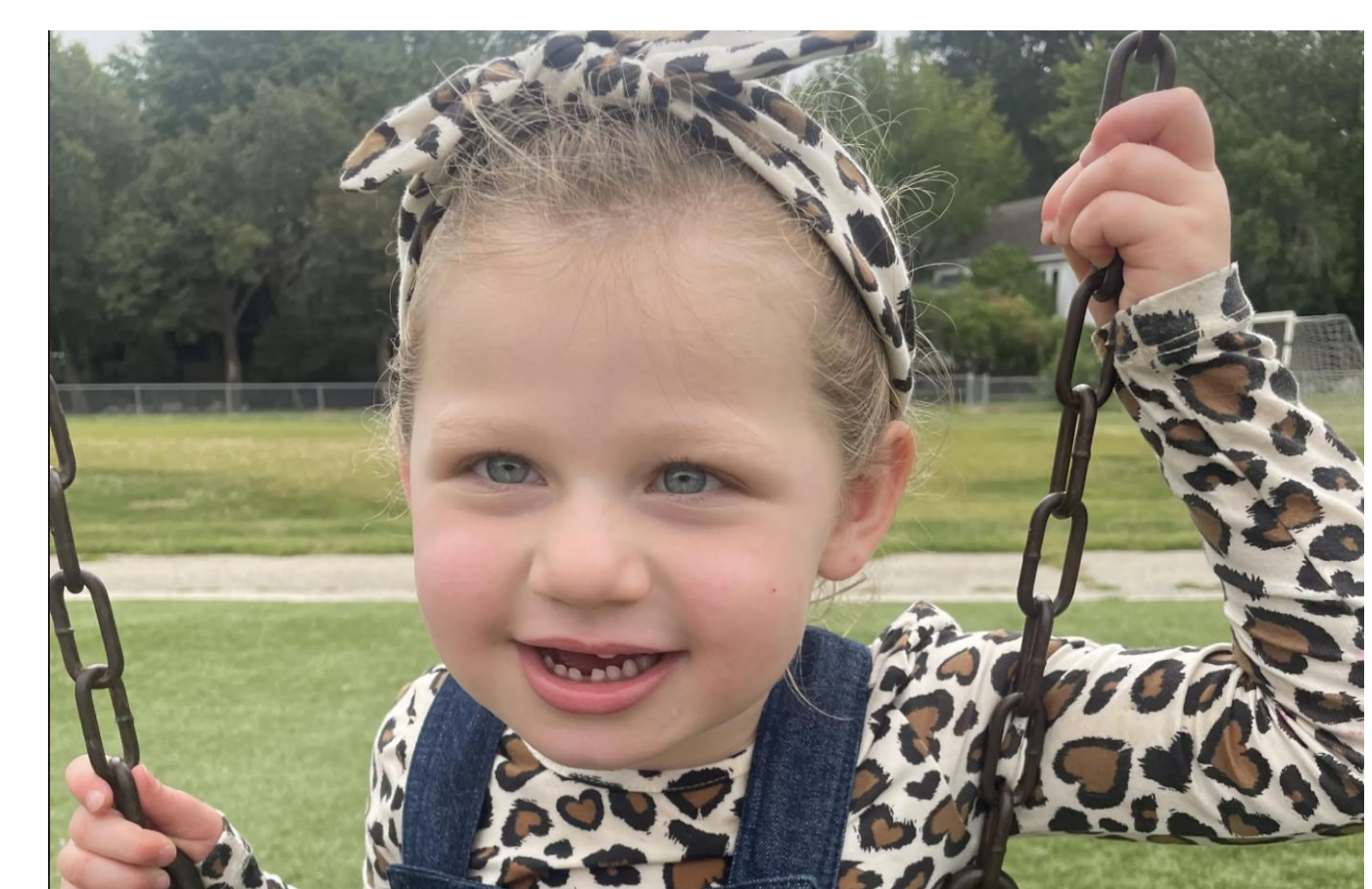
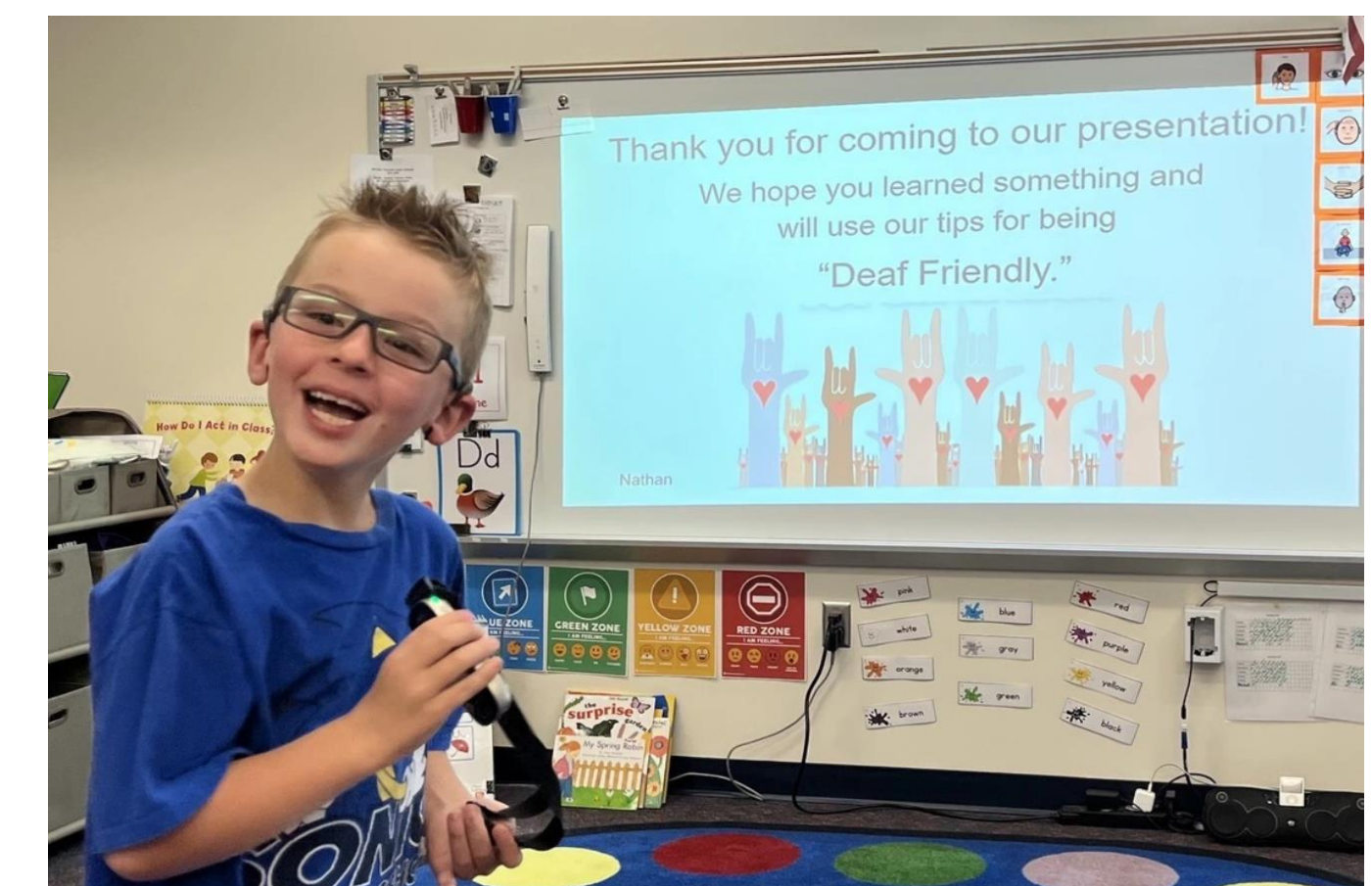
Gallery

olucdenver.sharepoint.com/sites/olucdenver.sharepoint.com/sites/TeachMEDisability



Submit a photo!

Redcap.link/teachmedisability



Next Steps

Make the website accessible to medical students and educators outside of the CU system, while prioritizing the safety and privacy of the individuals in the photos.

Gather data from current medical students and physicians around their perceptions of disability and how that was influenced by the way it was taught.

Publish results from the survey of medical students and doctors together with a more widely accessible resource for medical educators.

Many thanks:

- Individuals and families who have submitted their photos.
- Advocacy organizations that have shared the project with their members.
- Dr. Daniel Goldberg, Dr. Ecker, Dr. Bernard, Dr. Stabio.
- CU offices of Communications, Legal, and Privacy.

References

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