## Manna Church's Special Needs Ministry (VIK) | Haden Boliek, Debbie Hume, and Alyson Nance 7.24.2015 | The Working Therapist Podcast

- I. Intro
  - a. Welcome
    - i. Haden introduces herself
      - 1. "Welcome to The Working Therapist podcast, I'm Haden Boliek, your host..."
    - ii. Haden thanks the listener for joining her today
  - b. Introduction of guests
    - i. We are very excited to have Debbie Hume and Alyson Nance joining us today
    - ii. Debbie Hume is an international educator and traveler. We're glad to have her joining us today.
      - 1. Haden asks Debbie to introduce herself
        - a. Director of Special Needs Ministry at Manna Church
        - b. Owner of Neuropathways to Learning
          - i. Haden asks question "What is Neuropathways to Learning?"
            - 1. Search & Teach
            - 2. Interactive Metronome
            - 3. Bio & Neuro Feedback
            - 4. Brain Mapping
          - ii. When did you open it?
            - 1. 2011
              - a. Recently reopened in June
          - iii. Who do you primarily treat there?
          - iv. What age children do you start to work with
        - c. Haden asks Debbie "What caused you to have an interest in learning disabilities and special needs education?"
          - i. Debbie expands on this to include her schooling.
      - 2. Haden comments "Before you started Neuropathways, you were living overseas, correct? Can you tell us a little about that?
        - a. Debbie comments about her time in China & Thailand
          - i. Worked for Grace International School
            - 1. Offers affordable, high quality education to the children of Christian workers in Southeast Asia
    - iii. We also have returning guest and friend, Alyson Nance, here with us today.
      - 1. Haden asks Alyson to introduce herself
  - c. Haden thanks all guests for joining her today

- i. Excited about being able to record together today
- II. Introduction of topic
  - a. Haden comments "Debbie, you stated earlier that you are the Director of Special Needs Ministry at Manna Church. That's actually how we all came to know each other."
    - i. Group can comment on how they became acquainted.
  - b. Today our podcast subject is the Special Needs Ministry at Manna Church. Here at Pediatric Developmental Therapy we have been honored to be a part of helping you guys with this new ministry area you are launching called V.I.K.
    - i. Haden asks Debbie to explain what this ministry is.

## III. V.I.K.

- a. Debbie introduces the name of the ministry
  - i. V.I.K. Very Important Kids
    - 1. Ministry for children with special needs
    - 2. A part of Manna Church's Worldchangers Children's Ministry
- b. Haden asks where the vision for this part of Manna's Children's Ministry come from?
  - i. How did you (Debbie) become a part?
- c. Goals of the ministry
  - i. Haden comments "Here at PDT we are all about knowing our why, and helping our therapists know our why as a company as well as their why personally. Our 'why' for why we do therapy is we have a small window in the life of a child to help them grow and develop to be everything that they can be... it's our purpose."
    - 1. In saying that, what is the why / what are the goals of V.I.K.?
  - ii. Debbie explains the goals and gives insight in to the "why" of each. (Alyson and Haden give commentary and feedback throughout.)
    - 1. Implement Biblical principles of special needs ministry.
    - 2. Ministry philosophy that is inclusive.
    - 3. Intentionally and systematically with people who have special needs and help them grow.
- IV. What V.I.K. offers to families
  - i. Haden comments that as they have worked with Debbie and Manna Church it is clear that they *are* being intentional and systematic. The ministry has set up a number of systems for children with special needs.
  - b. Shadow Buddies
    - i. Haden comments "One thing you guys are utilizing throughout this ministry is Shadow Buddies. Can you explain what a Shadow Buddy is?"
      - 1. Debbie gives explanation of the shadow buddy system (do not mention information about going to sensory rooms yet... this will be asked by Haden)
        - a. Haden asks "Does every child receive a shadow buddy?"

- i. Are there certain shadow buddies for children with certain needs?
- ii. Does the child have the same shadow buddy every service or can it be someone different?
- iii. How are Shadow Buddies and children paired?
- b. So how does a shadow buddy help a child with sensory needs if they are feeling overwhelmed or uncomfortable?
  - i. Segway into talking about the sensory room

## c. Sensory Room

- i. Debbie talks about the sensory room that is available to children
  - 1. Haden comments about how Alyson was a major role in PDT's partnership with Manna in stocking the sensory room
    - a. Alyson talks about what products were chosen for the room
      - Group talk can commence around certain products and what was needed
  - 2. Haden asks Debbie if there is a sensory room at every campus (may need to explain the fact that the church has multiple campuses across the area)
- ii. Haden asks "How are the shadow buddies trained to know how to best interact with these children?"
  - 1. (this comment will Segway into education)

## d. Education

- i. Debbie talks about how they educate their staff / volunteers to work with special needs children
  - Highlights the regular special needs educational presentations
    Manna is offering
    - a. These are available not only for people that work in the children's ministry at Manna, but parents, guardians, and those who work with children from other churches and organizations
- ii. Rachel's presentation
  - Debbie can talk about how PDT partnered with Manna at their last presentation
    - a. Rachel Beaver, occupational therapist, presented "Tigger or Eeyore? Sensory Awareness and Finding Balance Between the Extremes"
      - Debbie can give a brief synopsis of what was presented
      - ii. Alyson comments on how the event was set up and how Rachel volunteered to do the event
      - iii. Haden comments that the next podcast will be a special podcast with Rachel where she goes more in

depth about her presentation and gives helpful tips and insight in regards to sensory awareness

- b. Haden asks Debbie what other presentations they have coming up
- e. Respite Care
  - 1. Haden reviews that Manna's program is offering shadow buddies, sensory rooms, and parent education, but there is another program that they are doing for families called Respite Care
  - ii. Haden asks Debbie to explain what Respite Care is
    - Haden asks what ages of children are accepted at respite care (comical option: Do you take teenagers?)
      - a. Debbie explains age range of accepted children
        - i. 18 months 11 years
    - 2. Haden asks "What the prerequisites are for being a part of Respite Care?"
      - a. How much does it cost?
    - 3. What times is Respite Care available?
- V. Wrap Up
  - a. Haden thanks Debbie and Alyson for their time
    - i. Haden asks Debbie if she has any final comments
  - b. Haden thanks guests for joining her for the podcast
  - c. Haden thanks the listener for tuning in
    - i. Stay tuned for next week's podcast with Rachel Beaver where go more in depth about her sensory awareness presentation
    - ii. Check out the show notes at <a href="www.theworkingtherapist.com">www.theworkingtherapist.com</a> to learn find links to products and websites mentioned throughout this podcast
    - iii. "I'll catch you next time on another addition of The Working Therapist Podcast."