

College Experience

My name is Áine Lawlor and I am
going to talk about my College
experience

Trinity College

- After been out of school for a while I went back to education I went to Trinity College.
- I went to Trinity for two years.
- In the first year we were just getting to know one another and learning how to do assignments.
- The second year was when the real work began. I learned how to do an essay and I went to mainstream lectures.



What helped me to learn

- I had problems remembering what was written on the board.
- I had a chat with my teacher and he told me to do a spidergram. That way I can remember the key words.
- I also found hand outs very helpful for I am a visual learner.
- In Trinity I had to learn how to be organised.



Going back to Education after working

- After Trinity I went to do a Childcare course in Killester College of Further Education.
- Again I was out of education for a while so going back to a mainstream school was hard.
- I found that there was a lot of writing to do, so I did the course over two years. That way I was not under pressure.
- I still found it hard to do assignments so I had to go get an assessment done.



Back to Killester again

- When I got the assessment done I got a learning support worker and I finished my childcare course.
- Then I went out of education for another while and now I am back to Killester College doing a classroom assistant course.
- Again I was advised to do the course over two years and again I had to get the assessment done to get my learning support worker.

Before Learning Support

- Before the support worker came I struggled with my assignments.
- I felt a bit lost and confused.
- What worked for me was I was able to go and ask tutors for help.
- I was able to ask my class mates for help.
- Its what I need. I need someone to talk through the assignments with me.





What I need



- My brain is not able to look at the page and remember what I have to do.
- I find it difficult to follow written instructions.
- Some one has to sit down and go through it and break it down.
- But I learned something about myself this year in Killester. I was able to ask for help when I need it.

What helps and what does not help

- I find hand-outs are helpful.
- Or if a teacher writes in a coloured pen on the board I can see it better.
- What did not help me is not having a support worker this year.
- If I do not have that I am lost and confused.
- I do not know what's going on in class and I do not know how to do the assignments.



The background of 22q

- I was diagnosed with a syndrome no one knows about.
- It's called 22q.11point2 deletion.
- When you look at me you do not think I have a learning disability.
- That's why it's so hard for people to understand it they can't see it but I can feel it.
- That's why it's so hard to get a learning support worker for when I am doing a course.

Having 22q

- But having this syndrome is not a bad thing.
- It just makes me a slow learner.
- Some days I feel really bad about having the syndrome and other days I feel ok about it.
- We have a charity group going for those families who are affected by 22q. We started off with three families and now we have a 100.
- Now were fundraising for the US doctors to come over to Ireland.

What I want to do after College

- I want to finish the course.
- I want to work in a special needs school.
- I want to be a SNA.
- That's my dream job.



That's it and thanks for listening

