

Dignity of Risk

The dignity of risk is the right of the individual to take risks when participating in life experiences and understanding that all experiences may not be positive. Parents automatically try to protect their child and keep them safe, when a disability is included the desire to protect may be over-emphasized and severely limit the child's ability to make choices and learn from their mistakes.

A parent may expect their children to carry their dishes to the counter after eating a meal, but the sibling with a disability may not be given the same expectation due to the fear that the dish may fall on the floor, break and food can be scattered everywhere. When considering the dignity of risk, the question becomes, "What is the worst that can happen?" Consider different opportunities; a plastic non-breakable plate can be used; the dropped food can be cleaned, and the child has a new opportunity to learn to clean up the floor.

A sense of judgment is important to our growth. We all make choices and then deal with the consequences. Dignity of risk means the right to fail, the right to learn and the right to make choices. We all learn from our mistakes. Taking a wrong turn may cause you to learn more about your community, ordering the wrong food can help you experience new foods.

- [Interdependence](#)
- [My Disability Matters: Dignity Risk People Disabilities](#)
- [The Arc: Burlington County: The Dignity of Risk](#)