

LEARNINGS FROM A POSITIVE EDUCATION JOURNEY

Strategies, tips & advice

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Disability & Diagnoses

Oculocutaneous Albinism

Autism Spectrum Disorder

Generalised Anxiety
Disorder

Sensory Processing
Disorder

Moderate Vision Impairment

Sun Sensitivity & Eczema

Varied Education Pathway

**Early Intervention
Preschool - RIDBC**

**Early Intervention
Infants - Aspect**

**Mainstream w Support
Primary - Plattsburg PS**

**GATS Class
High School - CCWC**





WE NEED TO CHALLENGE ASSUMPTIONS OF DISABILITY

OUR OWN ASSUMPTIONS, AS PARENTS, AS WELL AS THOSE
OF SOCIETY



Embracing a strengths based approach

**Focus on strengths
& interests**

**Recognise learning
preferences**

**Create opportunities to
demonstrate strengths**

**Listen to your child
& include them**



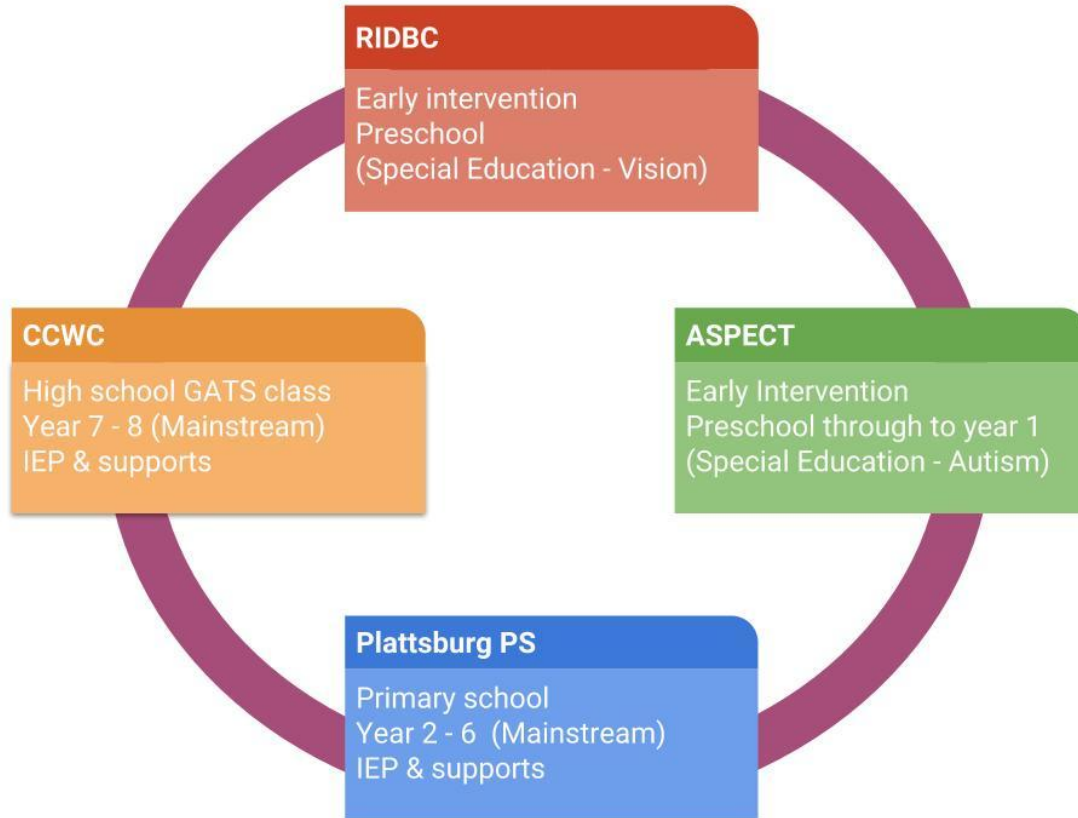
A group of runners participating in a marathon, with text overlays. The runners are wearing various colored athletic gear and bib numbers. The text is overlaid on semi-transparent red rectangular boxes. The background is a photograph of a marathon race in progress.

The education journey is like a
marathon

Like a marathon, it's long, hard,
demanding, challenging & unpredictable

Like marathon runners, we need courage,
energy, resolve & good tactics to
succeed

Our marathon education journey



Milestones & Speed Bumps

**Rocky transition from
RIDBC to Aspect**

**Deceptively easy transition
to mainstream**

**Struggle to obtain supports
to sit selective HS test**

**Terrifying transition to
high school**



HOW TO STAY POSITIVE ALONG THE WAY

STRATEGIES TO HELP YOU STAY THE COURSE, KEEP
POSITIVE AND PRACTISE SELF-CARE



How to stay positive

Make connections

Prioritise self care

Reclaim yourself

Ask for help

Write it down

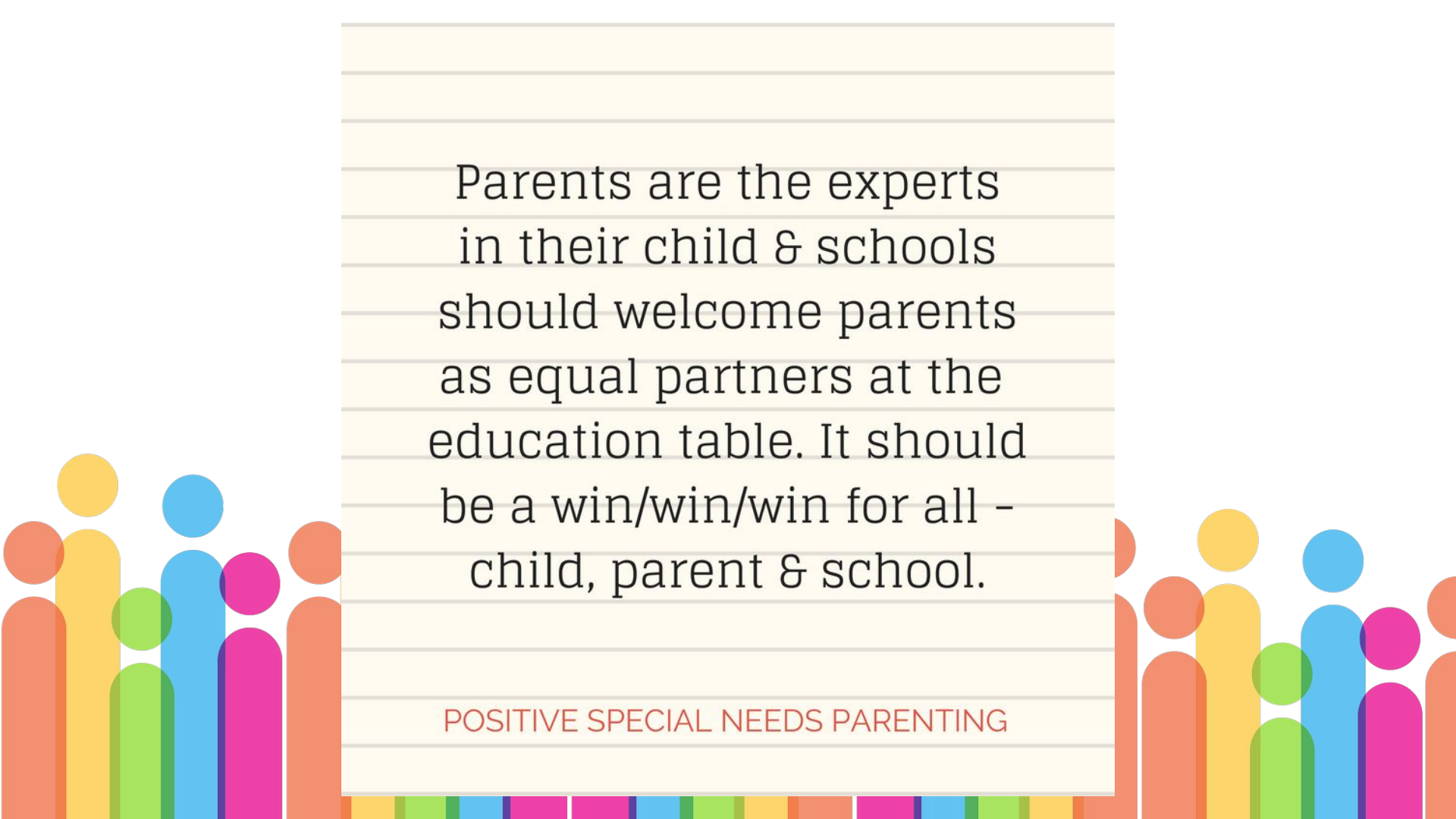
Know you are not alone



STRATEGIES FOR SCHOOL SUCCESS

HOW TO INTERACT WITH THE SCHOOL TO GET A POSITIVE
OUTCOME FOR YOUR CHILD





Parents are the experts
in their child & schools
should welcome parents
as equal partners at the
education table. It should
be a win/win/win for all -
child, parent & school.

POSITIVE SPECIAL NEEDS PARENTING

How to create positive relationships

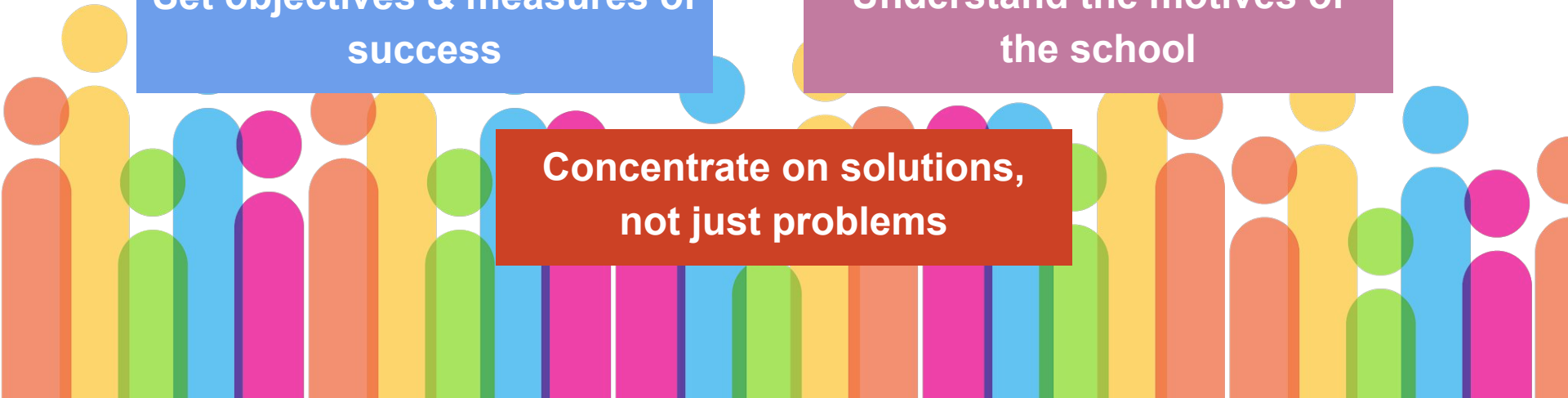
Introduce yourself to all stakeholders

Take the time to truly listen to the school

Set objectives & measures of success

Understand the motives of the school

Concentrate on solutions, not just problems



How to create positive relationships

Know your value & what you bring to the table

Be creative & think of alternatives

Follow up & follow through

Look to create a real partnership

Schedule time & be available

Our job as special needs parents is to find ways to work through the barriers so our kids can lead the lives they deserve. When the world says no, we can't stop until we've changed the answer to yes.



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