

Neurodiversity Week 2026:

CELEBRATING MINDS,

CONNECTING

COMMUNITIES

Trinity College: March 12th



Event Schedule

5:45 – 6:15 Nibbles & Networking

6:15 – 6:20 Welcome

6:20 – 6:25 Acknowledgement
of Country & Prayer

6:25 – 6:30 Introductions

6:30 – 6:55 Jacinta Critchley

6:55 – 7:35 Susan Hughes

7:35 – 7:40 Thom Nevill

7:40 – 8:00 Q&A

8:00 Finish

Welcome!

Brendan Chapman - Vice Principal



Acknowledgement of Country & Prayer

Leah Rogers

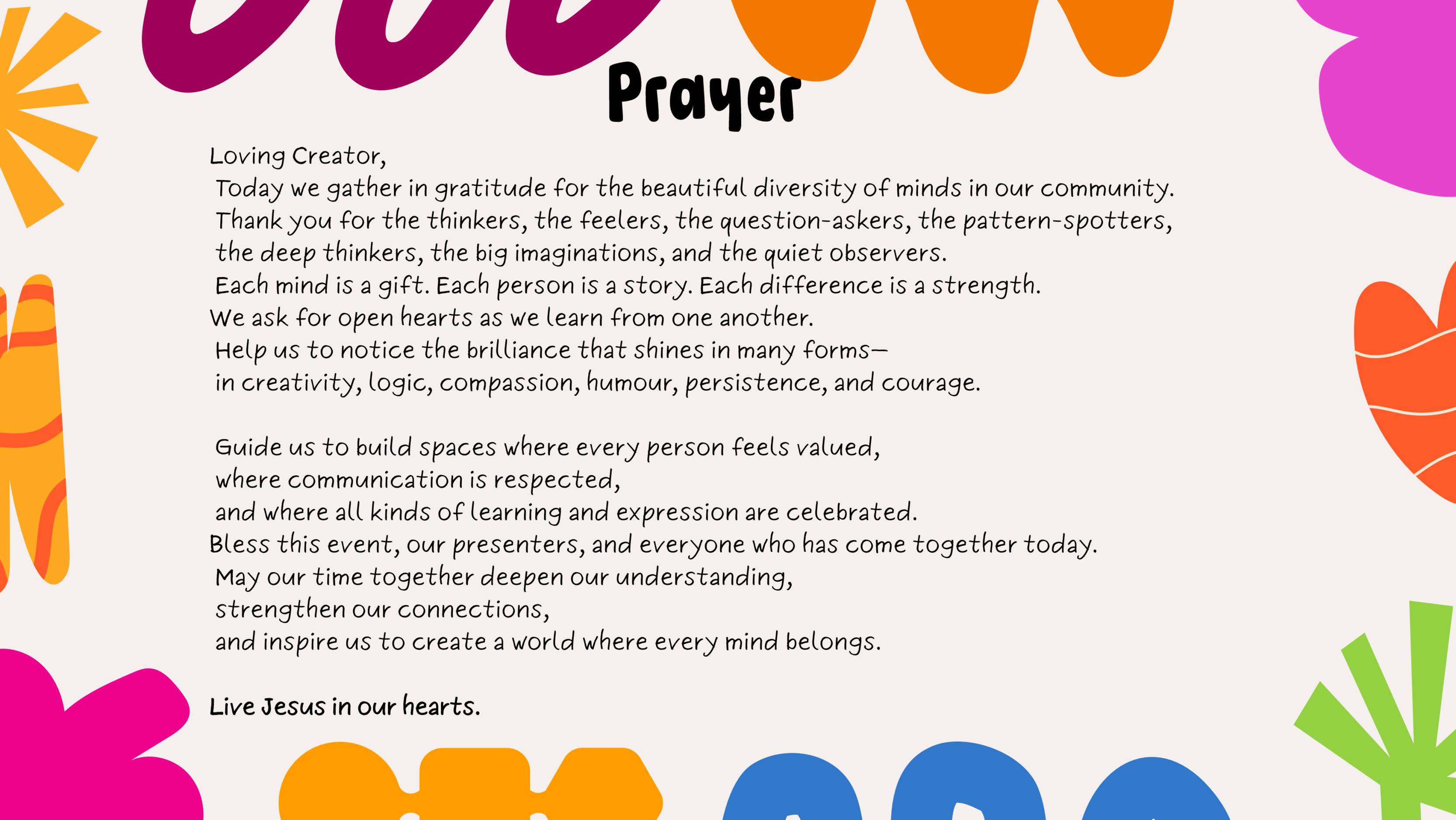


Acknowledgment of Country

Kaya Wanju (Hello and Welcome)

I would like to acknowledge and pay my respects to Nyungar Elders, past and present, recognising their journey and their history allows us to maintain traditional Aboriginal culture and language on country today.

It is now a part of Trinity College tradition to do an Acknowledgement or Welcome to Country to recognise the traditional custodians of this area, the Whadjuk Nyungar people. One of the 14 language groups within Nyungar country.



Prayer

Loving Creator,

Today we gather in gratitude for the beautiful diversity of minds in our community.

Thank you for the thinkers, the feelers, the question-askers, the pattern-spotters, the deep thinkers, the big imaginations, and the quiet observers.

Each mind is a gift. Each person is a story. Each difference is a strength.

We ask for open hearts as we learn from one another.

Help us to notice the brilliance that shines in many forms—
in creativity, logic, compassion, humour, persistence, and courage.

Guide us to build spaces where every person feels valued,
where communication is respected,
and where all kinds of learning and expression are celebrated.

Bless this event, our presenters, and everyone who has come together today.

May our time together deepen our understanding,
strengthen our connections,
and inspire us to create a world where every mind belongs.

Live Jesus in our hearts.

Introductions

Natalee Calegari



Jacinta Critchley

'Setting the Table' for Self Advocacy

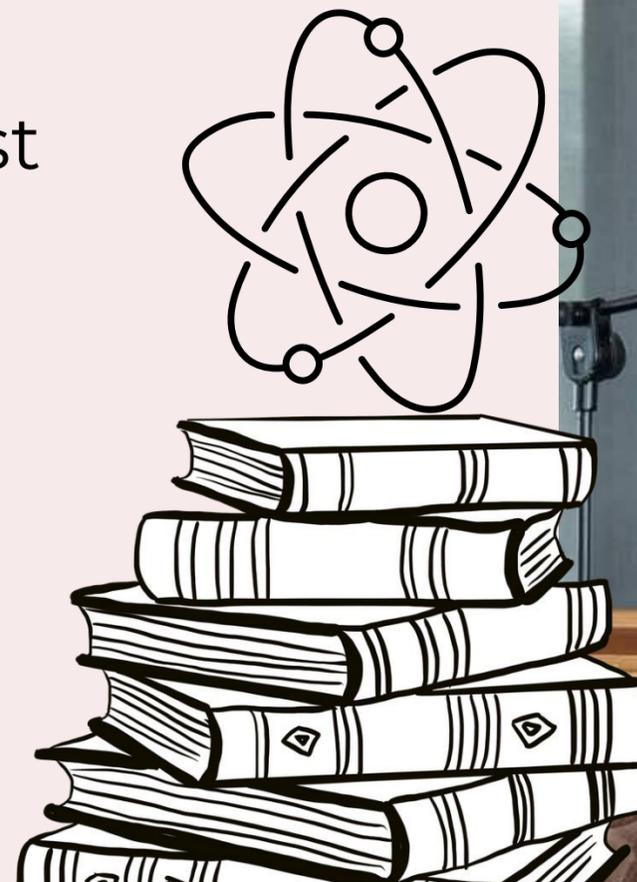
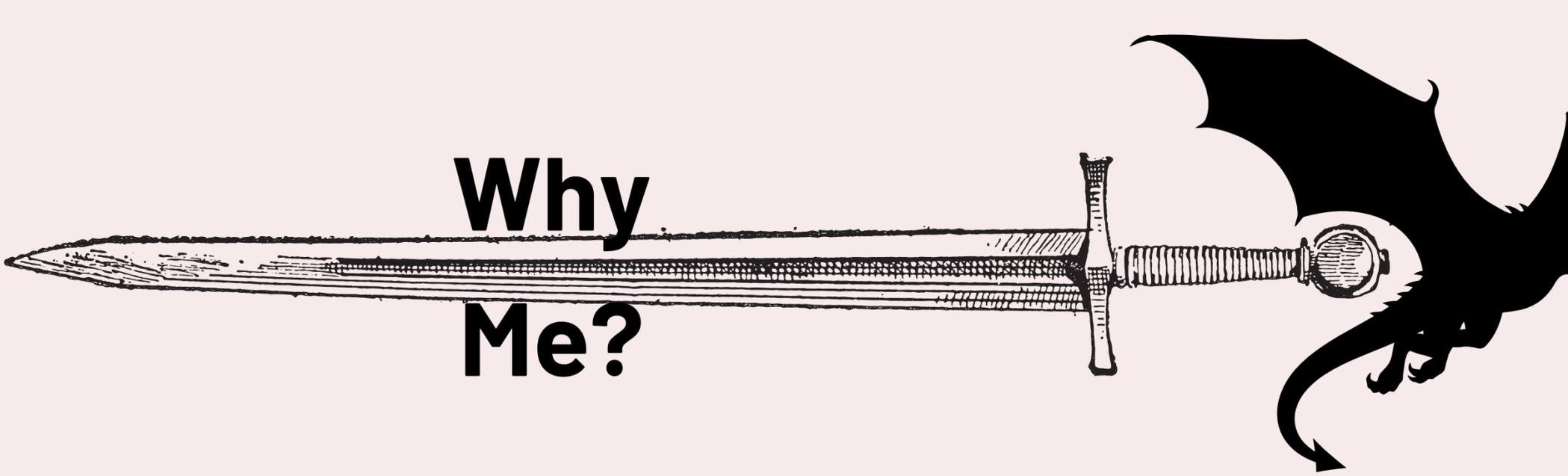


'Setting the Table' for Self Advocacy



Why Me?

- Diagnosed with Autism in 2008 and Autism and Dysgraphia 2010
- Certified Nerd (Bachelor of Science (Physics))
- Helped set up the Curtin Specialist Mentoring Program
- Advocate since 2013
- Mentor since 2016
- Career in Diversity and Inclusion
- Board Member x2



**It's about inviting others...
to come to the table**



Essentials vs. 'Nice-to-Have' vs. Desires

Essentials:

Routines

Defined end points and how to get there

Knowing I have everything (before I walk out the door)

Clear reporting lines (knowing who is the "authority")

Hugs

'Nice to haves':

Soft clothing

Dim lighting and low environmental sound input

Headphones on all day

Time for hobbies after work

Work from Home days

Desires:

Doing my favourite work task all day every day

Staying up till 12:00AM

Pasta/bagel for lunch every day

My hobbies as my regulation strategy

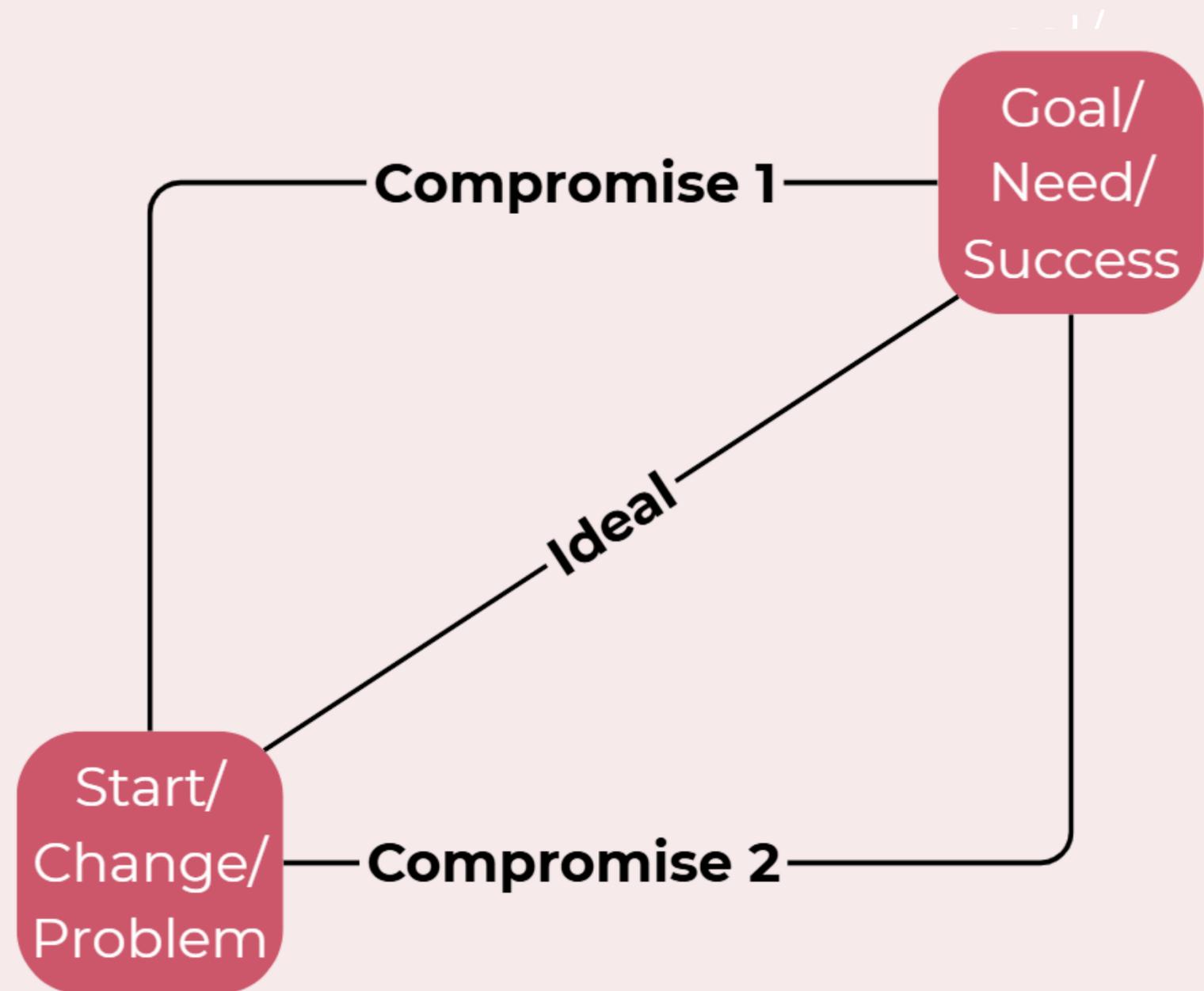
My husband at home all the time to do my executive functioning for me

Adjusting the Routine for Compromise and Substitution

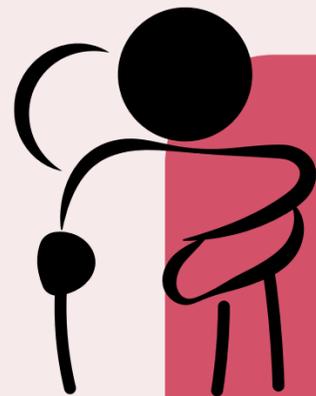
Create comfort and tools to use when faced with discomfort or change.

Building up a list of alternatives creates comfort that there will be ways to work through the problem.

This builds independence and strengthens communication and self-awareness.



Be Kind Be Brave and Listen

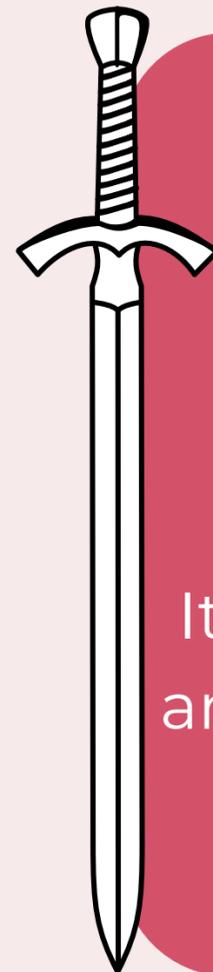


Kindness

=

From me to others

If we want we will
also need to give



Bravery

=

**A voice in my
destiny**

It is brave to share,
and it is brave to try
to understand.



Listening

=

Deeper connection

Connection leads to
understanding

Thank you!

If you have any questions or want
more information my email is:
jacintaelizabethr@gmail.com
or my work email
jacinta.critchley@lba-edu.com



Susan Hughes

Keeping Your Influence: Parenting ADHD
Through the School Years



Thom Nevill

Supporting Families to Access a Timely
Diagnosis



Supporting Families to Access a Timely Diagnosis

Study Landing Page



My Details

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Questions???