My Princess Boy: A Tale of Acceptance

What We Can Do To Include Others

By Cheryl Kilodavis

www.myprincessboy.com
Video: Jan 3, 2011 – The Today Show, Seattle
## Worldwide Reactions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POSITIVE</th>
<th>NEGATIVE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent accepting child</td>
<td>Too young to decide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supportive/anti-bully</td>
<td>Exploitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What would I do?</td>
<td>Culturally wrong</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“I AM a Princess Boy Mommy!”

• Soft Redirection – Girls are princesses, NOT BOYS!
• Daycare Play
  – Red Dress/Yellow Dress
• Doctor’s verdict: healthy and happy boy who likes pretty things
• Dkobe at Halloween - my turning point
  Why can’t you let him be happy?
• Needed tool to not crush his spirit
  – Journal entries became book
  – Never asked for agreement, but acceptance
You Can Do Anything

• Acceptance is accepting a person for who they are

• Difference = Discomfort
  • Ask yourself
    – why am I uncomfortable?
  • Then ask:
    – Is it harming anyone?

• Move beyond the “secret”
  – Talk, and keep talking
  – Conversations change society
My Favorite Page – WE are Community

My Princess Boy

is your Princess Boy.
We are ALL on the Acceptance Continuum

• Be kind to yourself
• Meet others **where they are** on the continuum
  – Learn to recognize and **CHALLENGE** the need to categorize, compartmentalize, force outcomes/endings

**The Ultimate Goal...**

Acceptance  Inclusion  Embrace Uniqueness within each of us
Acceptance Champions - Change Agents

The Acceptance Champion is someone who lives positively and shares it, embracing the uniqueness of those who feel different, are different and express themselves differently. They are:

• Courageous enough to say something positive in a situation
• Stops negativity by standing up for the issue, not the person as a bystander does
• Consistently keeps an open mind
Today – My Princess Boy is 8

• Dresses, Sparkles, Pinks and Purples dominate his life still
• He mitigates negativity with
  “If you don’t like me in a dress, then you’re not my friend.”
• Lives with Acceptance Champions around him
  • Try to catch positives
    – Pause, listen, force yourself to hear the “nugget”
  • Meet A Person Where They Are
    – Acceptance is fluid, and goes both ways

How Many Lives Are Saved with ONE simple Acceptance Champion comment?
If you really listen...

...you just might hear something that will change your life.

Thankfully – Dkobe, an ACCEPTANCE CHAMPION, spoke.
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Join the worldwide conversation on the Facebook: My Princess Boy page

Thank you.
To Acceptance!