

# UNDERSTANDING A SPECIAL FATHERHOOD

A book and accompanying  
conversation & writing  
prompt workbook for educators

## Dads of Disability

### Accounting for the special role a father has

Too often, programs that train genetic counselors, therapists, social workers, physicians and others fail to fully account for a father's special role in parenting a child who has a disability. Let's change that!

### Why did I create this project?

My son has a rare genetic disorder. When he was 12, after exhausting many other options, he entered a residential school. At that point, my depression and guilt could have gone in many bad directions. Instead, I chose to research the need and develop a book of essays by and about fathers to help professionals, parents, and caregivers build empathy and empathize with special fathers.

### It started with a book

I made calls to genetic counselors, and found out that almost without fail, they wanted additional resources for them and their clients to help fathers and those that support them. I spent the next 18 months in an odyssey of crowdfunding, emails, phone calls, book layout, working marketing contracts to pay the mortgage, and managing my son's placement and care.

### The transition to unlimited license & workbook

The project was the subject of podcasts, articles, and speaking tour which led me, among other places, to speak to Masters in Genetic Counseling Students at Tufts, Brandeis, Columbia, & Johns Hopkins/NIH where a White House representative attended. **I created a workbook and a department or campus wide license model to expand the reach of the content and conversations from these experiences.**

### Who the project has helped

The book has been useful for genetic counselors, social workers, special education teachers, physicians, psychologists, and parents and caregivers. It's about empathy. The book has even saved a life (I am not ready to tell that story yet, but it's true!)

### Brandeis says this about the project

*"Having the "Dads of Disability" department license and accompanying workbook with question prompts will allow our program to make sure Gary's words continue to be heard loud and clear by future generations of students."* - Gretchen H. Schneider, M.S. LCGC Director, Master's Program in Genetic Counseling, Brandeis University

# Stories for, by, and about fathers whose children experience disability (and the women who love them)

## Dads of Disability

### What does the package consist of?

#### A digital version of the Dads of Disability Book

You get a digital PDF version of the book inscribed and for exclusive use for student and faculty in your department or institution.

#### A digital version of a conversation and writing prompt workbook

You get a digital PDF version of the workbook inscribed and for exclusive use for student and faculty use. This workbook contains over 200 thought provoking questions and challenges. They can be used in a variety of educational settings and will elicit thoughts, discussions, and writing across a wide variety of issues surrounding fathers whose offspring experience disability.

### What are the licensing terms?

You can distribute the electronic book and electronic workbook to any student, faculty, or adjunct who is a part of your specific department (or institution if you choose that license) for a period of two years from the delivery date. This is an unlimited license. You may not distribute the electronic book or workbook to any other person or entity outside of your department. For bulk paperback sales contact [gdietz@garydietz.com](mailto:gdietz@garydietz.com)

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This is for an unlimited student / instructor license of the digital content. The department license cost is the same cost as buying 2 ½ dozen of the paper book. Yet it is for unlimited digital copies for you and your students for two years after purchase PLUS you get the discussion and writing prompt workbook.

### How to order

- Order online with major credit cards at [www.dadsofdisability.com](http://www.dadsofdisability.com)
- Send a purchase order (net 30) to this address:
- Send a check to "Gary Dietz" to this address: Gary Dietz, PO Box 21, Brookline, New Hampshire, 03033 (USA)

*The "Dads of Disability" department license provides an inexpensive way to share these lived experiences with my students... The associated conversation prompt workbook is a helpful adjunct, supporting faculty in creating challenging and useful class discussions and individual writing prompts that deepen students' understanding of the material and allow for self-reflection. I would recommend the department license and workbook to colleagues educating future practitioners in various fields, including genetic counseling, special education, and social work."*

- Amanda Bergner Director, Columbia University Genetic Counseling Graduate Program

See <https://tinyurl.com/dietzdads> for a 90 second video

