

# NO RESEARCH ABOUT US WITHOUT US

REMOVING RESEARCH BARRIERS FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

by

Amy Russell and Gary Bourlet

Funded by the National Institute of Health Research

HI, I'M AMY RUSSELL AND I'M AN ACADEMIC AT LEEDS.

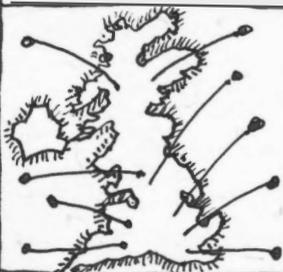


AND I'M GARY BOURLET. I AM A SELF-ADVOCATE AND CO-FOUNDER OF LEARNING DISABILITY ENGLAND.

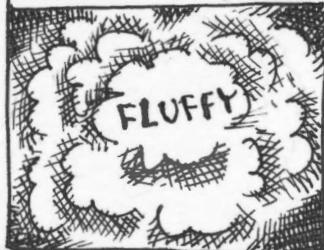
SAY IT bare-lay



WE LEAD A RESEARCH PROJECT TOGETHER.



RESEARCH IS A REALLY HARD CONCEPT TO EXPLAIN.



WE'RE EXCITED TO GET TIME TO PAUSE AND THINK ABOUT HOW TO WORK TOGETHER.

||

PAUSE

THINK

IN RESEARCH WE TYPICALLY RUSH TO GET IT ALL DONE.



THIS RESULTS IN DOING THINGS IN CERTAIN WAYS.



BEING ASKED TO BE PART OF RESEARCH IS A RIGHT.



WE WANTED TO DISCUSS A LITERATURE REVIEW...

ARTICLES



SO WE MADE IT AN EASY READ.



THIS TOOK A LONG TIME... BUT...



IT HELPED OUR TEAM CONTRIBUTE TO DISCUSSIONS.



GOING AT THE RIGHT PACE IS IMPORTANT.



PLAYING CATCH UP EACH MEETING IS STRESSFUL...



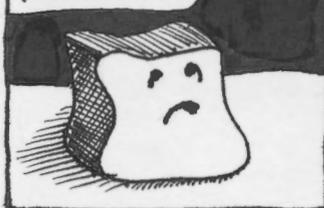
AND I CAN'T CONTRIBUTE IF I DON'T FEEL CONFIDENT THAT I UNDERSTAND.



THE PARABLE OF BLOBS AND SQUARES VALUES THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE BLOBS.



WILL GARY HAVE TO BECOME SQUARER TO LEAD A RESEARCH PROJECT?



NO. WE DON'T WANT THAT!



I LIKE DETAILS I LIKE STRATEGY



BUT WE DIDN'T KNOW THAT AT THE START.



WE WANTED TO SHARE IT ALL - BUT INCLUSION DOESN'T WORK THAT WAY.



I WAS OVERWHELMED BY EMAILS, FINANCE GOVERNANCE.



WHEN SHOULD I INVOLVE GARY?

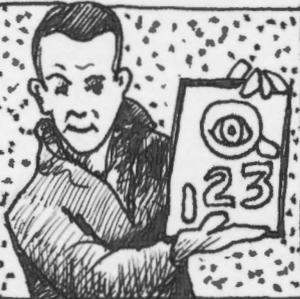
SHOULD I MAKE HIM DEAL WITH SQUARE PROBLEMS?



WHAT IF ALL OUR PAPERWORK WAS EASY READ?



WOULD THAT HELP?



BUT UNLESS SOMEONE READS IT WITH YOU - IT DOESN'T HELP!



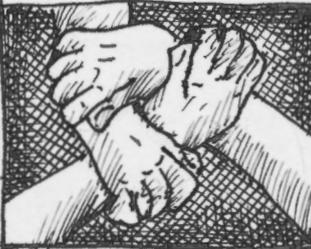
**YES...** INCLUSION TAKES TIME.



BUT TIME ISN'T A SOLUTION.



JUST MORE TIME DOESN'T MEAN A PROJECT IS INCLUSIVE



WE HAVE TO ASK...



WHAT DOES QUALITY INCLUSION LOOK LIKE?



BEING PART OF RESEARCH IS PART OF MY ACTIVISM FOR DISABILITY RIGHTS.



This series of cartoons was produced for the University of Leeds Centre for Disability Studies Conference, August 2024 by:

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We came to run a symposium together through our shared interests in inclusive and creative approaches to doing research with people with learning disabilities. Our research, while spread across different institutions, organisations and countries, aims to 'keep blobs blobby'. We celebrate the creativity, fun, mess, and varied contributions that this approach to research facilitates. We value the expertise of those we collaborate with, and avoid trying to make research, and the contributions of those we do research with, a neat (but often inaccessible and unauthentic) square.

The three cartoons presented in this booklet share the stories of our research and our communities, the opportunities and challenges in our work and the most important things we have learned along the way.

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