



NEVER SAY NEVER

When you are the parent of a child with a disability, you are well aware that the road ahead of you is a bumpy one, and quite different than that of all those around you. You understand there may be limitations and steep hills to climb, but you simply **NEVER SAY NEVER**.

My child cannot afford the cost of any attitude that falls short of reaching for the stars. Dwelling on whether or not something may actually occur is far less important than preparing for the daring chance that it can. Reality and truth have their place in my child's life, but reality and truth creep in on their own. . . they do not need an invitation. The word NEVER shuts down hope. It weakens the fight for the impossible. It kills the notion that wondrous and amazing things might be in store, so **NEVER SAY NEVER**.

There will always be an unsaid statement of fact about what my child can and cannot do, and what they may and may not achieve. Please understand that those "facts" ring all too loudly in my head without a word ever being spoken, and know that I can read between the lines of my child's future quite clearly on my own. The responsibility is mine to highlight what matters most or what defines the level of their success. I may concede that it is unlikely for my child to become an astronaut on the moon, but I will not concede that my child won't become something equally as important or equally as grand because I will **NEVER SAY NEVER**.

My role and your role in my child's life is to plant seeds . . . seeds for wonderful harvests over a lifetime that give credit, meaning, and purpose to their journey. We have an obligation to live in the pursuit of those seeds taking root and growing into the most vibrant of flowers and the tallest of trees. If we are not planting with that goal in mind, we are often planting in vain. Hope and belief are the food and water for the seeds . . . without these they will die. Hope and belief need to be woven into every goal and every aim we set forth for my child. We need to target for the impossible so that we at least land in the phenomenal. We need to excitedly break new barriers instead of complacently maintaining old standards. We need to let go of the fear of failure and learn to find successes in the rubble. We need to envision unimagined progresses even amidst the ongoing absences of them. We need to seek triumphant outcomes instead of paving the way for mediocrity to set in. We need to find a limb and go out on it . . . we need to open the closed doors and walk right through them. . . we need momentum to be started by a shift in mentality, so please...**NEVER SAY NEVER**.

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DSACK celebrates that ALL people are beautiful, capable, and loved!