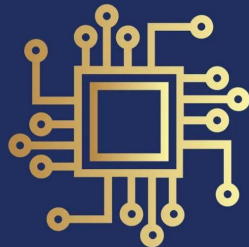


Accessible Gaming

Building interdependence & strong communities
through accessible PC & console gaming

February 9, 2022

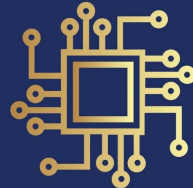


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Audience

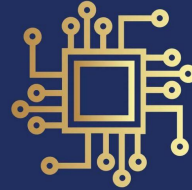
- Gamers with disabilities
- Case Managers
- AT Professionals
- Friends & Family of Gamers w/ disabilities



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Objective



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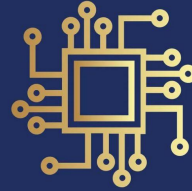
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Empower gamers with disabilities (& the important people in their lives) to be experts in their own adaptive gaming needs.

Today we will cover:

- Physical adaptations
- Building inclusive gaming communities
- Resources available

What is interdependence?



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“The dependence of two or more people on each other.”

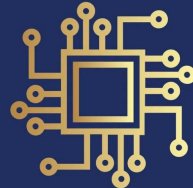
We focus on independence often, but humans are actually all interdependent:

- You rely on someone to farm food for us
- You rely on people for emotional and physical support
- You support others in ways you have strengths

Gaming builds interdependence by focusing on strengths, finding adaptations, and building community.

Materials

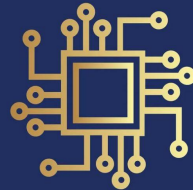
- Resource handouts & this presentation are available at <https://mn-neat.org/>
- Email keeri@accessiblelives.com to request a copy.



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Schedule



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Welcome from DHS

By Anna from DHS

Inclusive communities

By Keeri Tramm from [Accessible](#)
& Jonathan Murray

Take a break!



Physical adaptations

By Drew from [Tech for HOME](#)

Combating social isolation through play

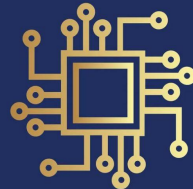
By Andy Wu from [AbleGamers](#)

Resources

By Chanell Calhoun from [SEMCIL](#)

Anna MacIntyre

Policy Lead / Disability Services Division at Minnesota Department of
Human Services

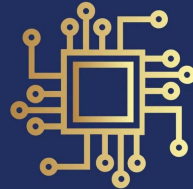


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Drew Redpenning

BBME, ATP at Technology for HOME

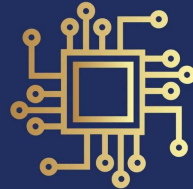


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Time for a break!

Come back in 10 minutes for more fun :)

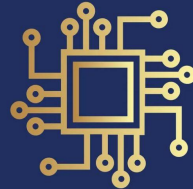


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Andy Wu

PhD, OT at ABLE Gamers



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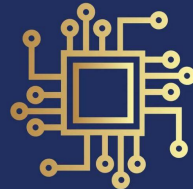
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Keeri Tramm

Analyst & Publisher at Accessible,
Gamer & Autistic

Jonathan Murray

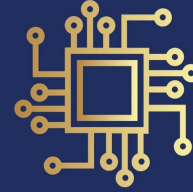
Community Leader at Twin Cities Maker,
Gamer & Autistic



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Importance of communities for Neurodivergent communication



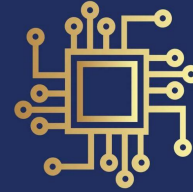
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Communication Is Key to Community



Building strong & inclusive communities



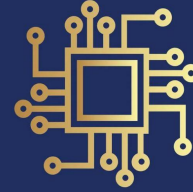
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Gaming isn't just fun– It has significant value:

- Combats social isolation
- Fosters friendships regardless of location
- Enables communication in user's most accessible format
- User gives & receives social feedback
- Identity development & self-exploration

Be your own expert



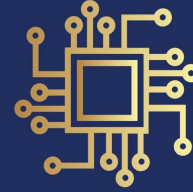
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You know yourself best – lead your support team to explore what adaptations, software, and consoles/PC works best for you.

- What is your main goal in gaming?
- What accessibility needs may you have?
- Do you have a preferred console/PC, or are you willing to explore?

Be your own expert

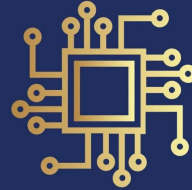


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- Explore games, software, and hardware to improve your experience (always room to learn)
- Determine what you are and aren't comfortable with regarding online relationships
- Check in regularly. How smooth is your experience? How are your online relationships?
- Create a plan for co-regulation

What is Co-Regulation?



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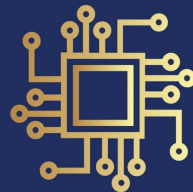
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“...The interaction is a result of each participant repeatedly regulating the behavior of the other. It is a continuous and dynamic process, rather than the exchange of discrete information.”

- Supports Interoception for body awareness one another's physical & emotional needs
- Support each others social interaction
-

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1MAqRWST9sqmhTk4ldYrzSqnHmYwf8Bk8S0FbciTLHVg/edit?usp=sharing>

Find & Foster your people



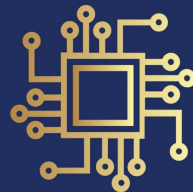
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Find or create communities to support AND that support you.

- A code of conduct is posted
- Members respectful of boundaries
- Being excellent to one another is the norm
- Reciprocity is expected

Xbox Social

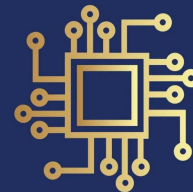


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- Easy parental controls
- Easily play with others
- Members may have access to Xbox Game Pass, which means you have the same games to play together
- Limited to Xbox

Twitch

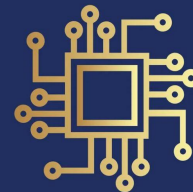


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- Quality game streaming
- Watch others with disabilities game & their setups
- May be difficult to navigate socially

Discord

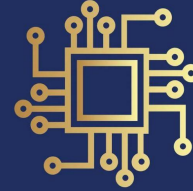


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- Communities create their own codes, screen members, & moderate content
- TTS, voice chat, video chat, text chat, multiple channels
- Somewhat technical to set up an initial server (or you must be willing to learn)
- Larger time investment for maintenance

Create a community



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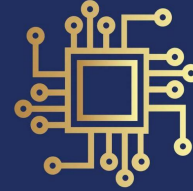
Pros

- Foster shared values
- Tailored to meet the community's needs
- Easily match alternative communication needs for members

Cons

- Time
- Technical knowledge (or willingness to learn)
- Navigating social situations

Essentials in a created community

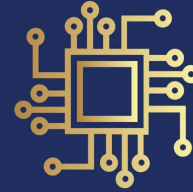


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- Code of conduct created together
 - Example:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1V68CizHlei0J71eR26uSFxZ-pYRavIY94Ddk8mPOfF0/edit?usp=sharing>
- Clear communication feedback
- Open door for moderator feedback
- Pulse check community regularly

Clear communication feedback

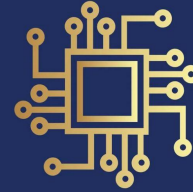


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Emoji	Meaning by member	Action taken by mods
	"I am okay with this conversation."	No action taken
	"This conversation is making me uncomfortable." OR "This conversation belongs in another channel #emotions channel, #NSFW, Relationships"	The conversation will be redirected OR The conversation will be deleted from the current channel and moved to #emotions etc. and tagged from @discordtag
	"This conversation is inappropriate and should not be on the Afterhours server."	The conversation will be discussed in a private message with all parties and deleted if inappropriate.

Takeaway



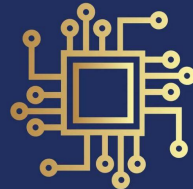
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- Find and/or create communities that foster shared values
- Create a plan for co-regulation
- Keep a curious mindset – keep trying new adaptations, platforms, & making new friends
- You are the expert on yourself

Chanell Calhoun

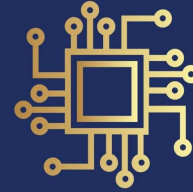
ATP, Independent Living Program Supervisor at SEMCIL



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Resources



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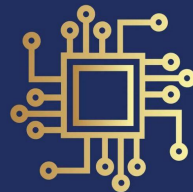
[SEMCIL](#)

- Demonstration of AbleGamer devices
- Short term loans of AbleGamer devices
- 507-285-3917 or email ilreferral@semcil.org
- A list of AbleGamer devices is available with photos

[MN-STAR](#)

- [Lending Library of AT devices](#)
- [Assistive Tech guide for Minnesotans](#)
- Loaner devices, demonstrations, and 1:1 information assistance on assistive technology (AT)

Resources



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[The AbleGamers Foundation](#)

- [Peer counseling](#)
- Engineering & User research
- Community & Inclusion
- Professional development for Devs

[DAGERSystem](#)

- Database of accessible games
- Accessibility game reviews
- Latest news on accessibility in gaming

Q&A