

## **Dorm Room Drop Offs and Disability Plans: What No One Talks About Strength Happens Season 1: Episode 5**

**Introduction:** Navigating the transition to college is a significant milestone for any student; however, for those with disabilities, it presents unique challenges and opportunities. Imagine the excitement and apprehension as you step onto campus, ready to embark on a new chapter, yet aware of the additional layers of planning and advocacy required.

**Understanding the Landscape:** Jill Heilman, Director of Student Accessibility Services at a New England College, emphasizes the importance of understanding each college's offerings. "Colleges are not all created equally," she notes, highlighting the need to assess class sizes, campus layout, and available resources. For students with disabilities, these factors are not just preferences but essentials.

**Preparing for Independence:** Janine Harrity shares her personal journey, underscoring the emotional and practical preparations involved. "It's not just a dorm drop-off," she explains, "it's the culmination of years of advocacy and planning." The transition involves ensuring that accommodations are in place and that students are equipped to advocate for themselves.

**Building a Support Network:** Both Jill and Janine stress the importance of building a support network. Whether it's connecting with the campus disability services office or finding local medical providers, having a robust support system can make a significant difference in a student's college experience.

**Conclusion:** As you or your loved one prepares for this journey, remember that college is not just about academics. It's about growth, independence, and finding one's place in the world. Embrace the challenges and celebrate the successes, knowing that each step forward is a testament to resilience and determination.

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