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When Honesty and Snarkiness are not appropriate……

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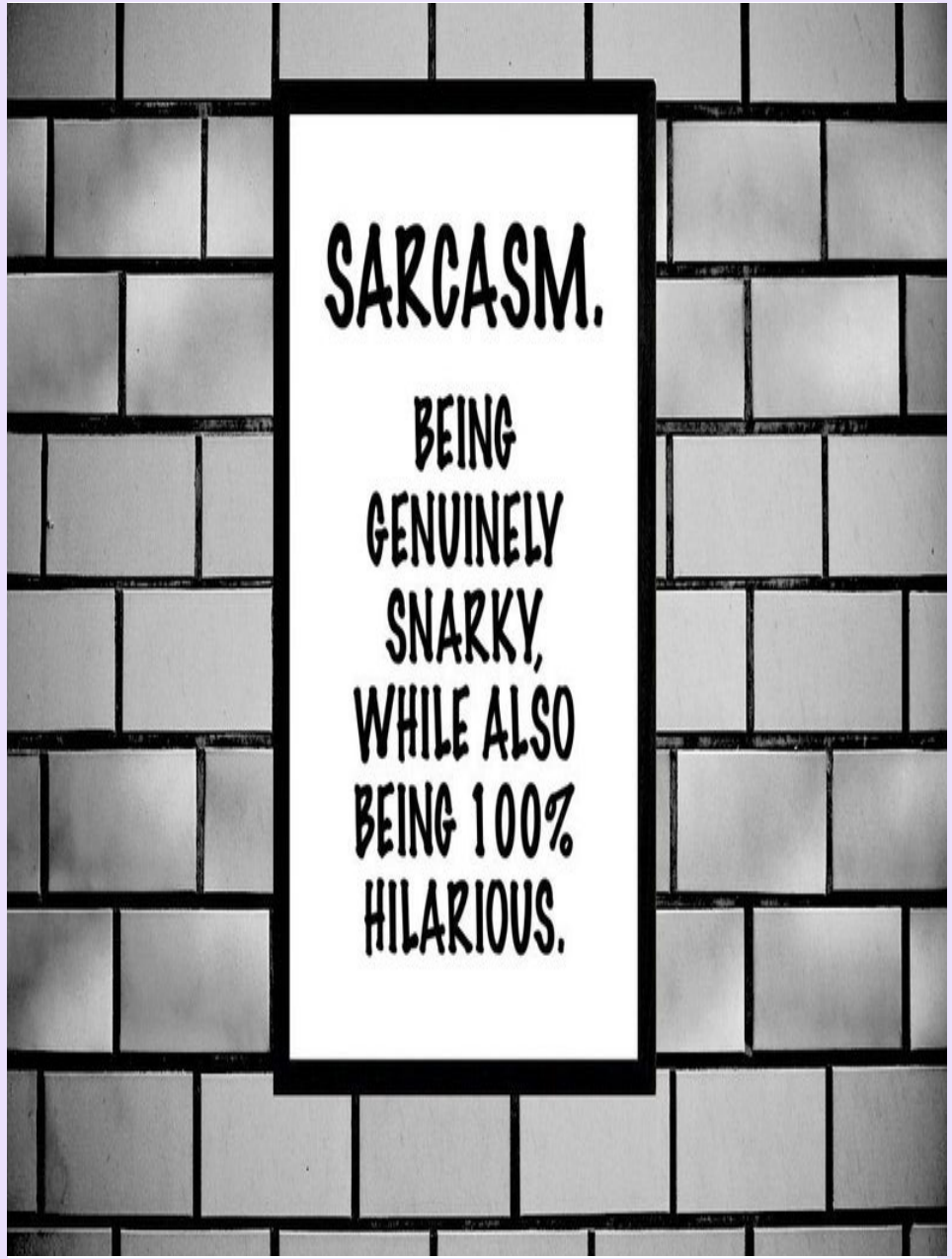


Snarky…….

Some have questioned whether snarky is a real word. There can be no doubt that it is; the adjective has been recorded in English since 1906. Its original meaning, “crotchety, snappish,” has largely been overtaken, however, by the far more frequently-encountered sense “sarcastic, impertinent or irreverent.”

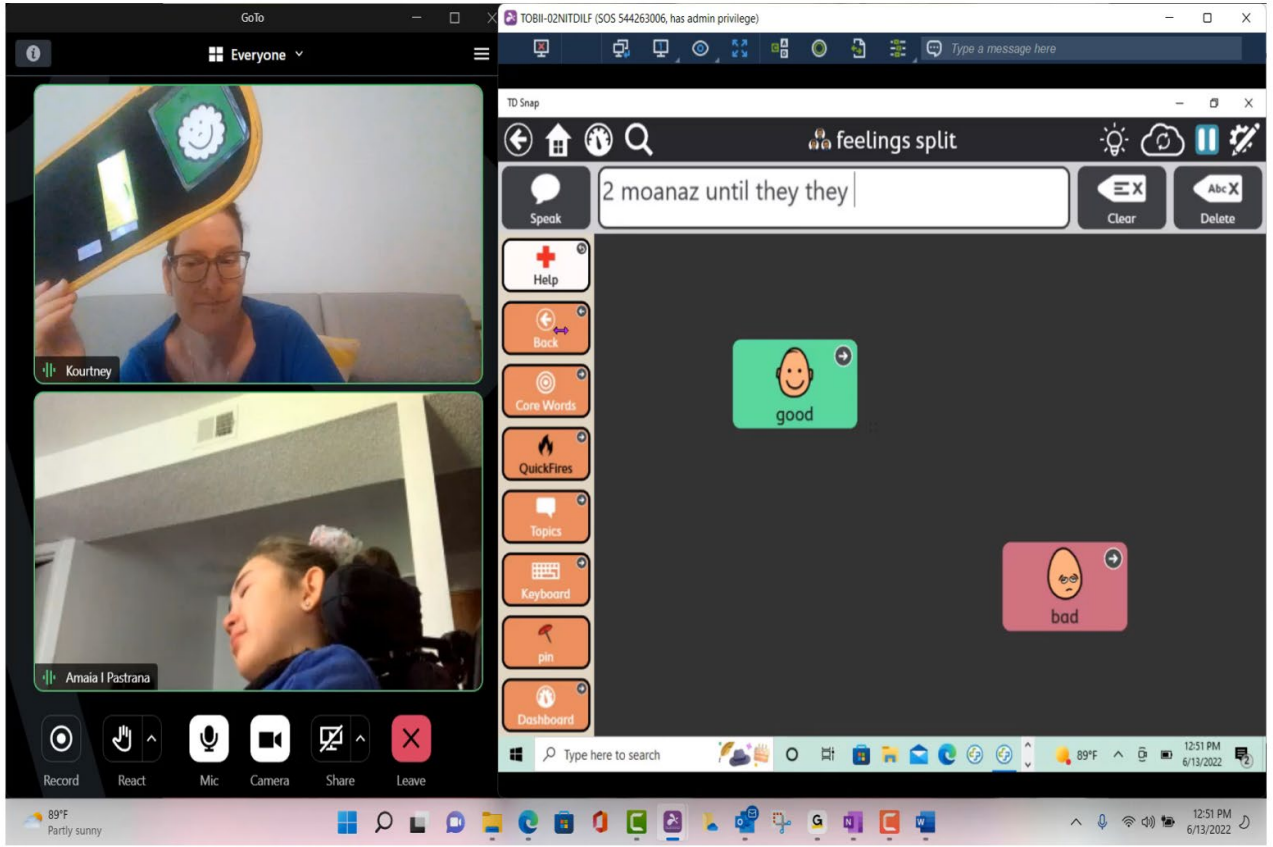
We've all been there……..

- Well placed comments at family gatherings.
- Inappropriate comments at the wrong time
- Calling people out either in public or private events.
- Some of our more mature friends exploring new language and seeing how people react to it.
- Saying what we might be thinking or saying exactly what is on their mind.

"Sure Mommy, Whatever"

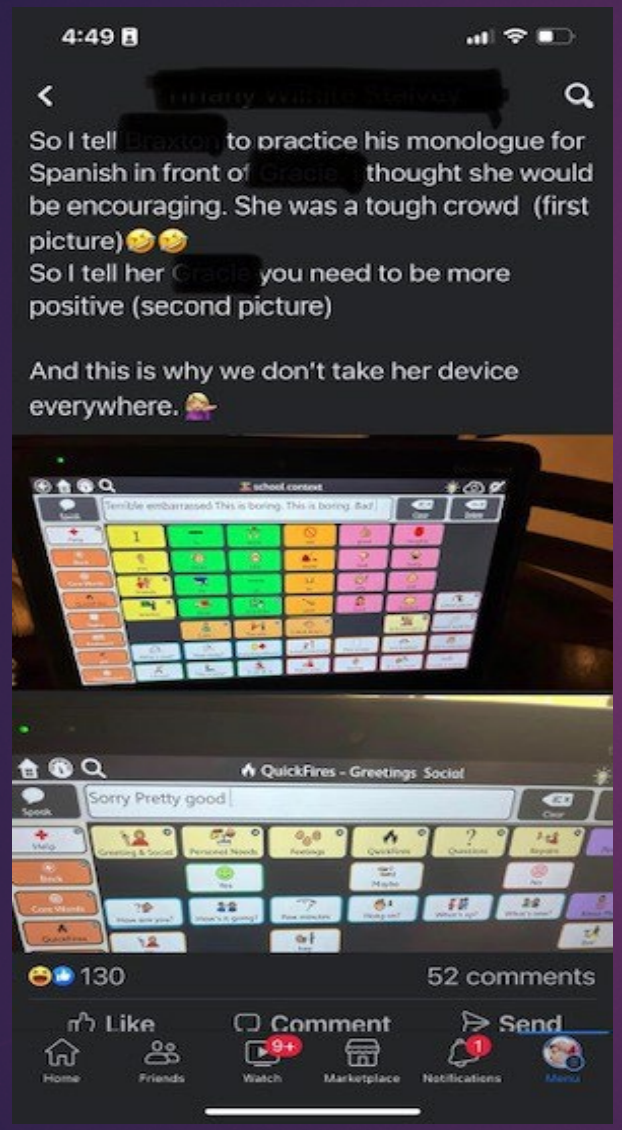
Meet Amaia

- 9 yrs. Old
- English, Spanish and AAC
- Working on writing which is a harder activity for her.
- She said what she thought about me in that moment.
- Not appropriate for school or other situations like that.



Presuming potential means we need to teach……..

- Our loved ones with Rett are smart and we presume potential
- That means we need to teach them when and where language is appropriate just like you would your neurotypical children.
- We want to create a safe space for them to use and explore language
  - With immediate family-siblings, parents,
  - Others-therapists, teachers, caregivers (depending on the level of trust and safety that is there.
  - With friends
- But, we also want to be respectful of our surroundings.
  - IEP Kourtney vs. everyday Kourtney
- During last video, giving her the opportunity to say what she feels
  - Teaching her that it is ok with me and I understand her frustration but others may not be so understanding
- Our loved ones are smart so give them the "why". They are more receptive when they have the "Why".



Teaching the when and where……

- We don't want to stifle their thoughts and opinions
- We do want to teach them when it is appropriate.
- We do want the device with them at all times but need to teach them appropriate use.
  - There is a time and place for these words
  - Swear pages
  - Sexuality pages
  - Dating pages

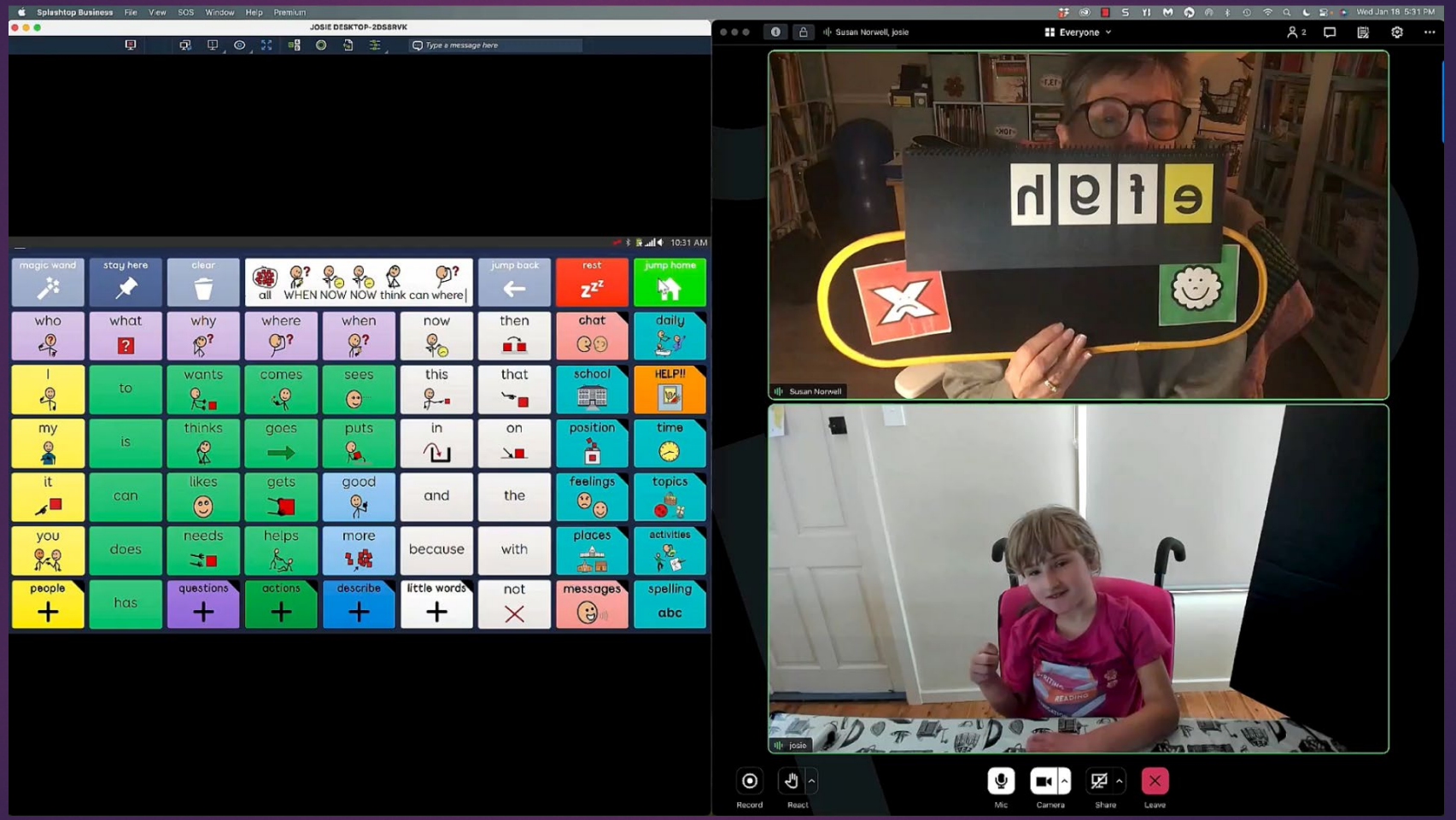
"Terrible embarrassed This is boring This is boring Bad"
"Sorry Pretty good"

Finding ways to express themselves

- Model the appropriate language in the appropriate surroundings.
- Let them know the consequences
- Give them opportunities to express themselves without repercussions
- What would you do with typical siblings?
  - Just because they have a disability does not mean free reign.
  - Expectations-frontload expectations with them so they know what to do and expect.

EXPLAIN, TEACH, MODEL, REPEAT

FIND OUT WHY? DISCOURAGES PATTERN



Final thoughts…..

Our boys and girls are sassy and we do not want to squash that but we do want to teach them, just as you do with their neurotypical peers, when and where it is appropriate.

Any Questions

- If you have any more questions, please email
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******If there are any subjects or ideas we have not covered, let us know. We are here to support******