

Learning Objectives

- Discuss why kids with disabilities were placed in institutions.
- Give examples of what life was like for children with disabilities in an institution.

Video clip	Debrief Question	Possible Answers
Sue 1	In the past, many parents chose to place their children in institutions instead of caring for them at home. What does Sue Beecher say are some of the reasons the parents did that?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The parents couldn't control the child's difficult behavior caused by the disability. • The child's disability required intensive physical care. • The family was from a rural area where people didn't have a lot of money to hire someone to help. • The parents had farming or other work to do that limited time for childcare. • The parent was aging. • It was what doctors told parents to do.
Bonnie	In the 1970s, Bonnie and her husband found that they couldn't take care of their son Brooks. He was placed in an institution. (1) What happened when they went to visit him there at Thanksgiving? (2) Do you think Brooks was being well taken care of? Why or why not?	(1) Bonnie and her husband found their son Brooks dressed "in rags," clothing that didn't belong to him. They found a few items of clothing in a pillowcase. (2) Brooks' care was not good because he was apparently being neglected. It was a snowy winter day and Brooks did not have a coat, only slippers for his feet. The "very nice" clothes that they had provided for their son were gone, apparently stolen. His few personal possessions had not been protected.
School Experiences at Muscatatuck State Developmental Center	One of the speakers described how children who misbehaved were placed in a room by themselves, what they called a "quiet room." (1) What do you think that was like for the child? (2) How might the experience have affected them and their education?	(1) Any answer is acceptable that demonstrates the student's capacity to empathize with a child who was punished in this way. (2) The child was taken out of school and so could not learn while they were in the room. Being alone in a small room for as long as 30 days is a very harsh punishment that could have a lasting effect on the child.

Paul	<p>Paul says about his job, “I didn’t know a lot that I know now.”</p> <p>What do you think are some of the things he learned later on?</p>	<p>As he got older and no longer worked at an institution, Paul saw people with disabilities who had better living situations and who were not treated badly. He realized that at the institution, despite the good moments, “it was pretty miserable for the folks that lived there.” In addition to mistreatment by the staff, he decided that the residents were actually encouraged to mistreat each other.</p>
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