

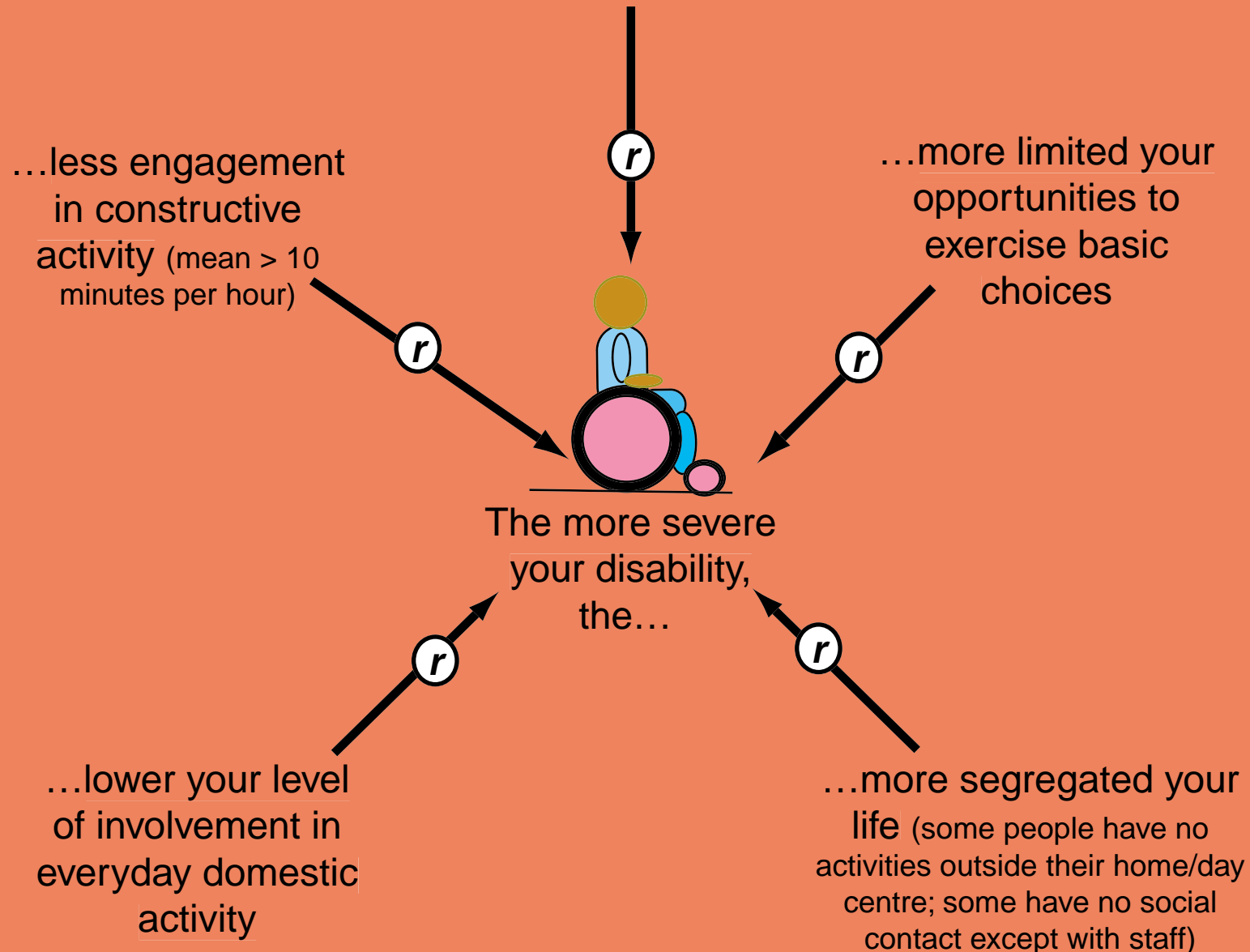
The Importance of Choice

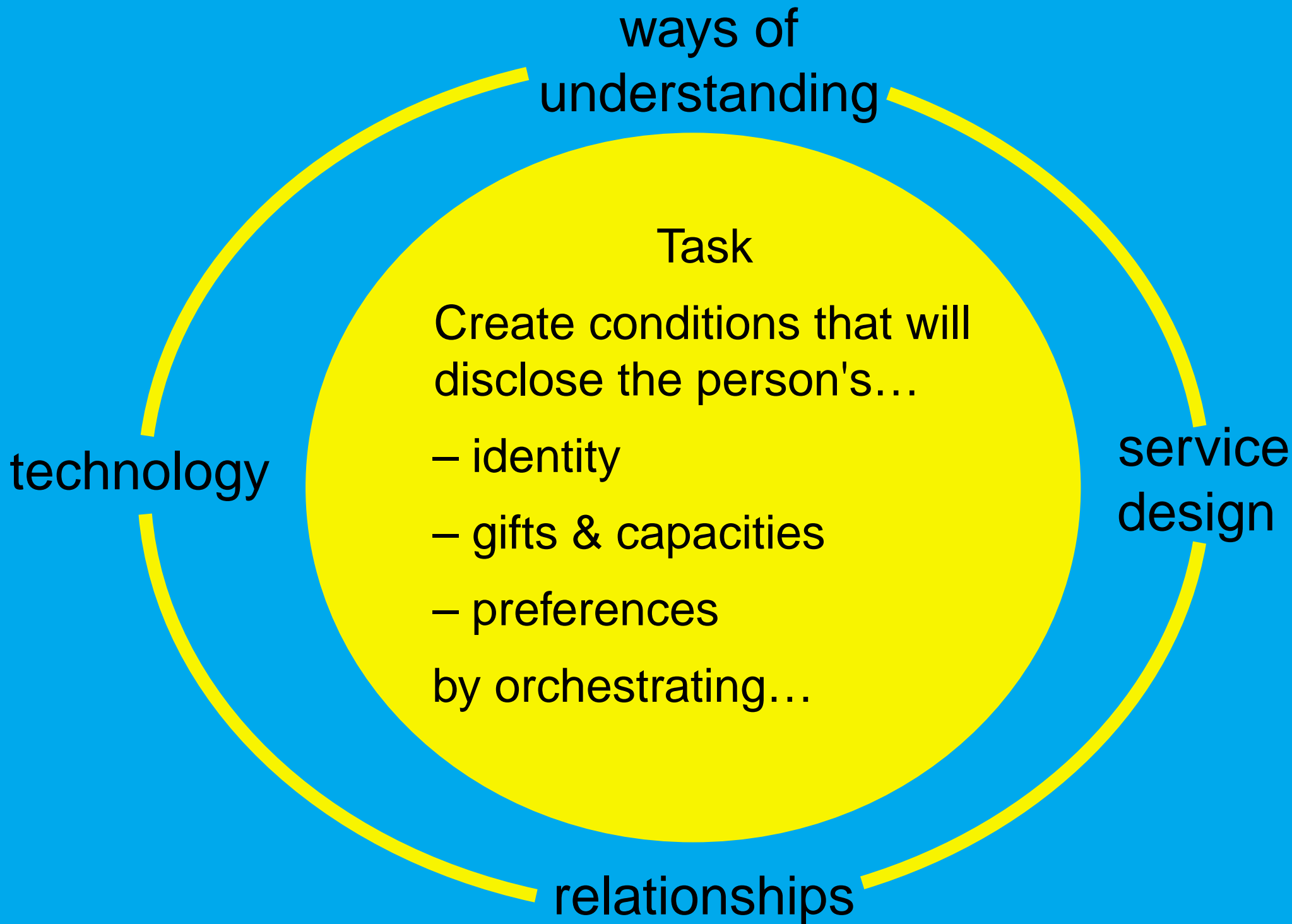
John O'Brien

Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities
Discovering Choice Conference
London, 9 November 2000

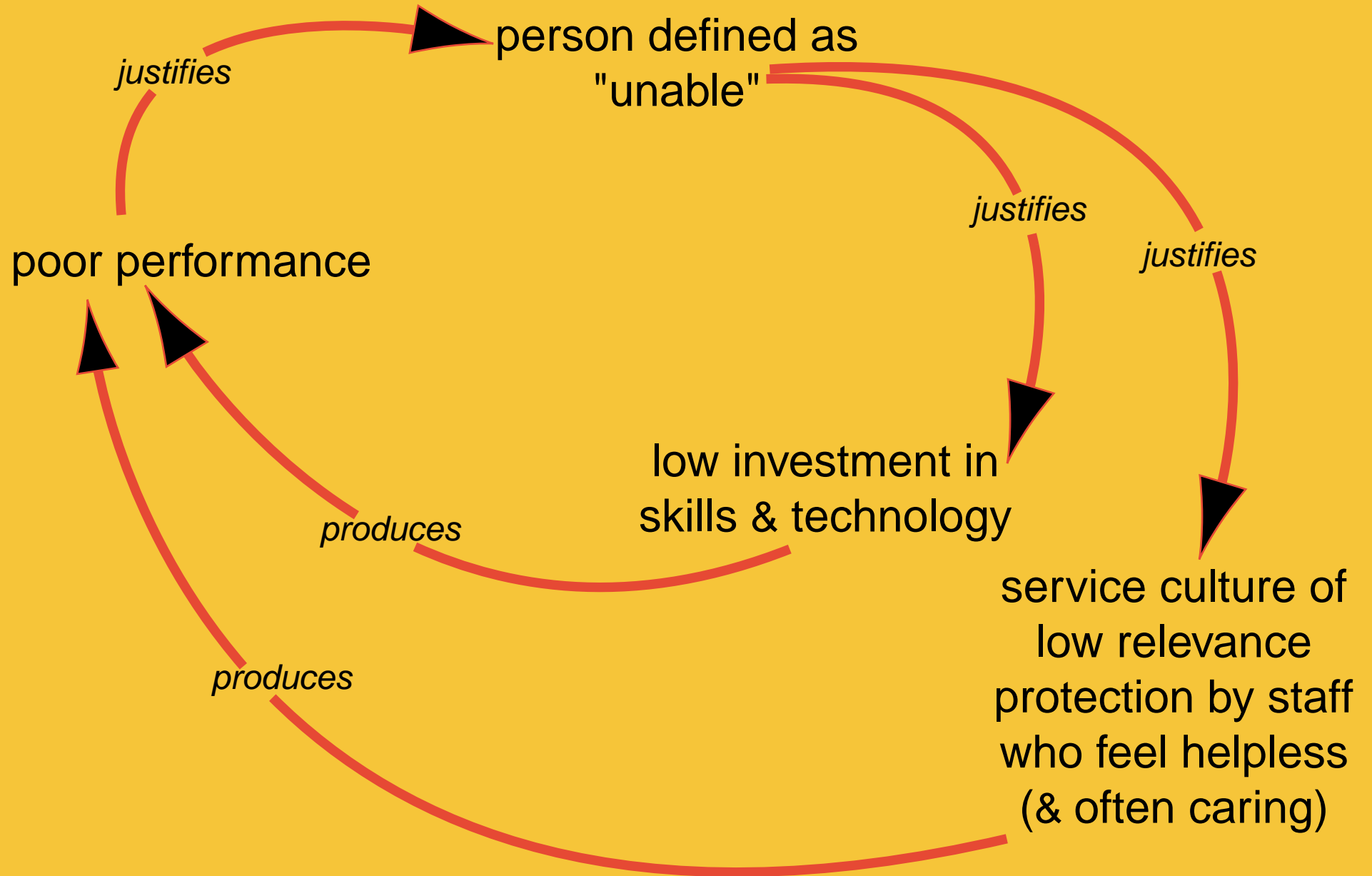
For materials by John O'Brien, Connie Lyle O'Brien and friends:
The Center on Human Policy // soeweb.syr.edu/thechp
Inclusion Press // www.inclusion.com

...greater the depersonalisation & social distance between you & staff...
the poorer the match between staff attention & your need for assistance





The Vicious Circle That Separates People From the Technology They Need



A Sequence of Actions to Promote Choice

- **Augment:** skilled use of technology to enhance communication, movement, attention, learning
- **Accommodate:** environmental modifications to facilitate participation in community places & activities
- **Adapt:** changing processes or requirements & systematically instructing to improve performance
- **Assist:** individually tailored personal assistance to perform necessary tasks or parts of tasks that facilitate participation & successful performance
- **Advocate** for required technology, environmental modifications, adaptations, & individualised personal assistance

Resources for Building a New Understanding

Rosemary Crossley (1999). *Speechless*. Dutton

Anthony Demasio (1994). *Descartes error*. Dutton

Anne Donnellan & Martha Leary (1995). *Movement differences and diversity in autism and mental retardation*. DRI Press (available from www.autcom.org)

Alan Fogel (1993). *Developing through relationships*. University of Chicago Press

Howard Gardner (1999). *Intelligence reframed..* Basic Books

Esther Thelen (1996). *A dynamic systems approach to the development of cognition and action*. MIT Press.

Information on augmentative and alternative communication

Augmentative communication user group //www.temple.edu/inst_disabilities/acolu

AAcel: Communication Device Users Consortium //www.vantatenhove.com/aacell.html

New perspectives on autism and neurological disorders

The Autism National Committee //www.autcom.org

www.autistics.org