



Parent Partnerships

A Newsletter for Parents with Children who have Moderate to Severe Disabilities
Educational Equity For All

October 2015

Common Core News



NCTM Mathematics Video Series for Parents

<http://www.hunt-institute.org/nctm-mathematics-video-series-for-parents/>



Five tips to help you support the Common Core at home

From Patrick Daley, Senior Vice President & Publisher, Scholastic Classroom & Community Group

1. Talk about books, especially the great ones
The Common Core says that children need to read “books worth reading.” Lead by example!
2. Ask your children questions about what they’re reading.
One of the key shifts with the Common Core is its requirement that students (both orally and in writing) cite evidence from the texts they’re reading to make an argument. Try asking questions that require your kids to talk about the content of books they’re reading.
3. Push your kids to read nonfiction. Reading fiction is still a critical and wonderful part of learning to read, but the Common Core elevates the importance of nonfiction, or “informational text,” as the authors of the standards call it.
4. Encourage your kids to write, write, write. The Common Core State Standards emphasize the fundamental link between reading and writing. Writing to persuade by citing evidence is a key 21st-century skill. Encourage your children to keep a journal or blog, or write a letter or an e-mail to a favorite author.
5. Talk math with your kids. The Common Core requires students to learn important math “reasoning” skills in addition to learning their multiplication tables and memorizing formulas. Parents: Try talking to your kids about mathematical practices they use every day. Have them estimate time and distance, compare the value of products in a store, or calculate the tip when you’re out to dinner.

<http://www.stanton.cv.k12.ca.us/parent.pdf>



5 Helpful Tips for Managing Mental Health in Special Needs Children

Maintaining good mental health is important for all children, especially when a child has special needs. These five tips will help parents manage and encourage good mental health in their special needs children.

- Become familiar with mental health and special needs services in your area
- Encourage friendships
- Enlist the assistance of a primary care physician (PCP)
- Surround them with a support system
- Tailor your treatment strategy

<http://commonwealthparenting.org/5-helpful-tips-for-managing-mental-health-in-special-needs-children/>



Elizabeth Landerholm and Jo Ann Karr,
"Designing Parent Involvement Program
Activities to Deal with Parents' Needs"



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Feature Idea of Month



30 Very Accessible Computer Games

<http://www.arcess.com/>

- Keyboard, Mouse or Alternative access support
- Support for Single Switch Access
- Support for alternative keyboards
- Easily simplify the games
- Match game speed the ability of almost any player
- Great Low Vision support
- Add more Lives and extend Time Limits
- Suitable at any age

Trick-or-Treating Tips for Parents of Kids with Special Needs

Halloween may be a bit more challenging for parents of special needs kids but that doesn't mean it has to be any less fun! Here are some tips to help your child have a positive Halloween experience:

- Talk About It.
- Walk your child through the entire process from wearing their costume to politely asking for treats.
- Another fun way to get your child excited about Halloween is to read him or her Halloween themed books.
- Before leaving for any Halloween events, have a quick family meeting so that your whole family knows how long you plan to stay and how you expect them to behave.
- Practice Makes Perfect
- Plan Your Route
- Plan for Complications
- Is your child fed via feeding tube or does him or her have strict dietary restrictions? Pick up some non-food items your child would enjoy and drop them off before hand at the houses you know you'll be visiting. This also gives you an opportunity to let your neighbors know that you're going to be trick or treating with your special needs child.
- Have a code word your child can use if he or she feels overwhelmed and needs a break.
- Another great idea is trying reverse trick-or-treating. Dress your child up at home, and ask familiar family and friends to come over with treats in 15-minute intervals.

<http://www.napacenter.org/trick-or-treating-tips-for-parents-of-kids-with-special-needs>

WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

http://www.nasponline.org/publications/booksproducts/hchs3_samples/s8h39_special_education.pdf

<http://www.medicalhomeportal.org/living-with-child/taking-care-of-yourself-and-your-family/tips-for-single-parents-of-children-with-special-needs>

<http://www.masters-in-special-education.com/50-great-websites-for-parents-of-children-with-special-needs/>

Education Tips for Parents

- Grandparents raising children with special needs **NEW**
- Support at home for your child with ADHD/ADD **NEW**
- Strategies to help relieve stress for families of children with special needs **NEW**
- Tips for a productive IEP meeting with your child's special education team **NEW**

http://publish.gwinnett.k12.ga.us/gcps/home/public/parents/content/parent-info-resources/education_tips_for_parents

Special Needs Parenting: 12 Tips For Managing Challenging Behavior

Managing behavior

The key to managing behavior is to listen to what the person is trying to tell you. Be consistent in your approach, and try to avoid confrontation. Be aware of your body language, especially when you are under stress.

Although challenging behavior is a learned behavior remember that people with special needs don't do it on purpose to 'manipulate' you. Behavior always happens for a good reason.

Tips From Parents on Managing Behavior

1. Keep A Journal
2. Use A Break Card
3. Exercise As An Outlet
4. Be Calm But Assertive
5. Lower The Volume
6. A Good Night's Sleep
7. Encourage Friendships
8. Independence Helps
9. Monitor Medications
10. Remove All Distractions
11. Early Intervention
12. Take Care Of Yourself

<http://www.friendshipcircle.org/blog/2012/10/22/special-needs-parenting-12-tips-for-managing-challenging-behavior/>