



Parent Partnerships

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

December 2017

California Department of Education News



[Dyslexia Guidelines Work Group](#) (Updated 13-Oct-2017)

Information about the Dyslexia Guidelines Work Group members, archived meetings, current law, and related documents and organizations.

Holiday Survival Guide for Families with Special Needs



We all could use a little help during the holidays! This is one of the reasons AbilityPath.org created a Holiday Survival Guide for Families with Special Needs to provide parents helpful tips and resources during this busy and stressful time of year.

It will help you navigate the change in schedules to finding a sensory safe Santa to how to explain to the grandparents why your child may not eat grandma's stuffing. <https://goo.gl/V7fdge>

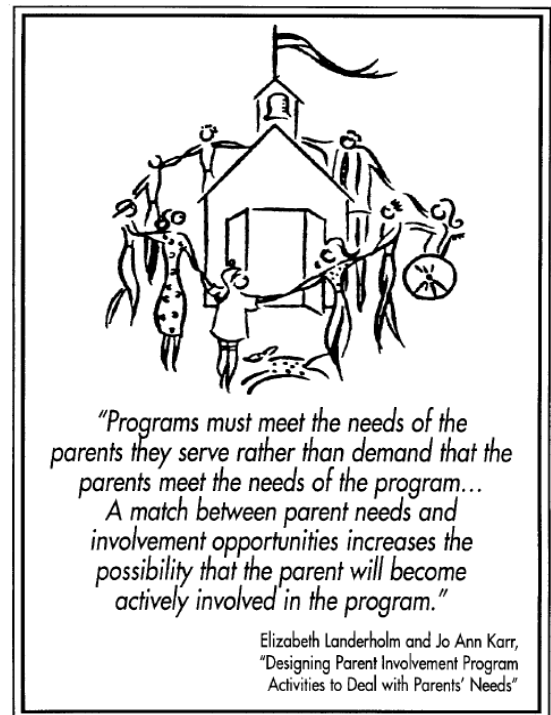
15 Stress-Reducing Holiday Tips for Families with Special Needs

The holiday season can be a difficult time due to changes to any of the following:

- Routine
- School programs
- Vacation
- Travel
- Visiting family and friends
- Attending functions
- Excruciating amounts of down time
- Too much noise, and lastly;
- Too much food

1. Do Not Over-Schedule
2. Bring Your Own Food & Supplies to Gatherings
3. Offer to Buy Gifts
4. Try to Build in as Much Routine as Possible
5. Ask the School or Program for Activities You Can Work on At Home over Breaks
6. Take Two Cars
7. Plan Activities Where There is No Expectation that Your Special Needs Loved One Has to Behave
8. Try to Schedule Ample Help
9. Avoid Crowds
10. Use the Time with Family to Discuss Plans for the Future
11. Keep Calm
12. Don't be Afraid to Say No
13. Take Time for Yourself
14. Keep Expectations Reasonable
15. Count Your Blessings

<https://goo.gl/QqnQRN>



"Programs must meet the needs of the parents they serve rather than demand that the parents meet the needs of the program... A match between parent needs and involvement opportunities increases the possibility that the parent will become actively involved in the program."

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

Feature Idea of Month



Learn 25 signs for Christmas in American Sign Language (ASL). The video contains vocabulary related to Christmas. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=35-h2dH-sf0>

Why Routines for Kids are Important

When a child knows what to expect, their world is more comfortable, it makes sense.



A routine lets a child know what to expect. A routine provides them with a sense that life is predictable. A routine is calming, providing a child with a sense of security.

On a more concrete level, it allows them to participate in the day to day activities. Eventually, they will begin doing things on their own, maybe taking the initiative to pick out a story for you to read, or brushing their own teeth.

This means routines for kids can help encourage their independence.

One of the best ways that you as a parent can enhance your child's self esteem is to establish predictable routines.

<https://handsonaswegrow.com/routines-important-kids/>



Holiday Gift Guide

GROSS MOTOR SKILLS
FINE MOTOR SKILLS
TACTILE AND SENSORY
GAMES AND PUZZLES

As the holiday season quickly approaches, caregivers and parents of children with special needs are considering what new toys, games and learning tools are appearing on the market and which of those might be a good fit for their child. To help families through their toy purchasing decisions, [Exceptional Parent](#)'s editors have compiled a selection of some new products as well as some classic choices, each of which offer fun ways to improve motor skills, balance, strength or social skill building. Our toy guide is broken into four major sections to help highlight the features that each toy emphasizes.

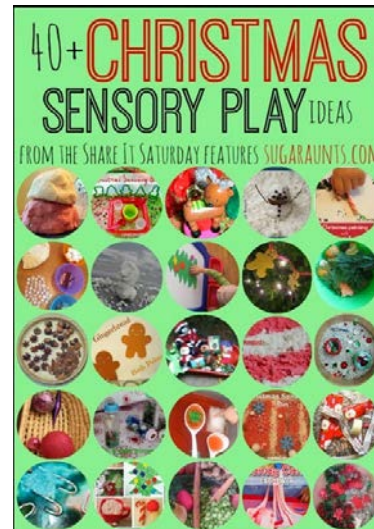
<https://goo.gl/8o2DJ1>

WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

<https://goo.gl/shXAA4>

<https://goo.gl/4pSZoY>

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



IDEAS & TOOLS FOR THERAPISTS, TEACHERS, & PARENTS
Christmas Sensory Play for Kids

We pulled the features this week together to create the **Ultimate List of Christmas Sensory Play Ideas!** So get ready to get messy and enjoy a little sensory exploration of textures, scents, and sounds with a Christmas theme.

<http://www.theottoolbox.com/2013/12/christmas-sensory-play-for-kids.html>



Printable Christmas Social Stories

Christmas social story visit family

by Positively Autism

Christmas social story visit Santa

by Positively Autism

Christmas Social Story

Christmas social story-Getting Presents

Picture Cards for Christmas 2

by Do2Learn

Picture Cards for Christmas (no words)

by Do2Learn

Getting Dressed for Winter

by And Next Comes 1

Pajama Day

by Creating and Teaching

<https://adayinourshoes.com/social-stories-thanksgiving-christmas-printable-online/>

