



Parent Partnerships

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

August 2015

California Department of Education



California Parent Organizations
List of California agencies
providing resources for families of
children with disabilities.

Parent Organizations and the California Department of Education

The California Department of Education, Special Education Division, works closely with the federal and state funded parent organizations to increase parent participation and collaboration between parents and educators to improve the educational system.

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/se/qa/caprntorg.asp>



Back-to-School Tips for Parents of Children with Special Needs

By: Reading Rockets

Our Top 8 back-to-school tips for parents emphasize communication, organization, and staying up-to-date on special education news

A new school year means a new grade, new teachers, new goals, and maybe even a new school! In order to help you and your child with special needs be as successful as you can be, we've put together a list of eight helpful back-to-school tips that we hope will make the transition into a new school year a little easier for you and your child.

- Organize all that paperwork
- Start a communication log
- Review your child's current IEP
- Relieve back-to-school jitters
- Keep everyone informed

<http://www.readingrockets.org/article/back-school-tips-parents-children-special-needs>



Special Education Toolkit: Resources Tools for Families

Autism Key: The Autism Friend Finder Program is a unique system that will allow visitors to submit basic contact information through a web-based portal. The data is then shared with anyone residing within a 35-mile radius of their postal zip code. The information will allow individuals facing similar challenges to connect with others in their community.

Coping with Crisis-Helping Children with Special Needs: A guide that provides parents and school personnel with tips on how to assist a student with special needs during a crisis.

<http://www.pta.org/advocacy/content.cfm?ItemNumber=3713>



"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



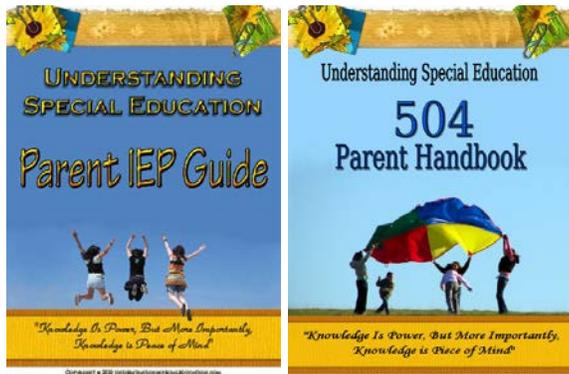
BREAK BOX: SENSORY TOOL KIT - CUSTOM CHOICE

Packed Full of Fun Tools to Improve Focus

When students start squirming and lose focus, open the Break Box! Filled with our best sensory tools and solutions, our Break Boxes help kids channel their energy and regulate emotions. Durable box includes activity guide. Use with adult supervision.

- Pre-empt problem behavior with therapeutic activities
- Tools for fine motor skills, calming pressure, heavy work, tactile exploration and hand-eye coordination
- Helps kids self-regulate with minimum supervision
- Made by Fun and Function
- Ages 5-18

<https://funandfunction.com/classroom-break-boxes-sensory-tool-kit.html>



This easy to read workbook helps you organize your child's school information, provides you with [FAQ sheets](#) on the special education topics you're looking for and helps prepare you for a successful [IEP meeting](#).

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



NASP  **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF School Psychologists**

Helping Children Thrive • In School • At Home • In Life

Special Education: A Basic Guide for Parents

http://www.nasponline.org/publications/booksproduct/s/hchs3_samples/s8h39_special_education.pdf

WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

Six great special-education resources for parents and teachers

1. AbilityHub Assistive Technology Solutions

An index, and description, of assistive technology for people with a disability who find operating a computer difficult, maybe even impossible. This website will direct you to adaptive equipment and alternative methods available for accessing computers.

2. Apps for Children with Special Needs

Gary James at A4CWSN.com maintains a large list of educational apps for children with special needs. James reviews the apps and posts demonstration videos so that users can see what each one is all about before spending money to purchase them. By producing these videos, James demonstrates how products designed to educate children and build their life skills really work from a user perspective.

3. CAST (Center for Applied Special Technology) Learning Tools

CAST is a nonprofit research and development organization that works to expand learning opportunities for all individuals, especially those with disabilities, through Universal Design for Learning. UDL free multimedia learning tools are designed for students, teachers, and parents.

Find more on <http://www.eschoolnews.com/2012/05/11/six-great-special-education-resources-for-parents-and-teachers/>



Professional Development

EDUCATION WEEK WEBINARS

Webinars

A collection of free virtual broadcasts, including **upcoming** and **on-demand** webinars. For **advanced learning for you or your entire team**, **browse our PD Toolkit**. All webinars are accessible for a limited time after the original live streaming date. Participation certificates are not provided, but viewers receive a post-event confirmation email.

<http://www.edweek.org/ew/marketplace/webinars/webinars.html>

How Parents and Teachers Can Work Together to Achieve Goals and Continue Learning



"Parents can assist teachers by looking for real-world, practical applications of concepts learned in class."