



Parent Partnerships

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

October 2018

California Department of Education News



Whole Child Resources

Whole Child resources that support schools in creating an environment where all students are safe, engaged, supported, challenged and healthy.

To effectively address the needs of the whole child, schools should collaborate with families, caretakers, and community agencies to deliver integrated services that promote improved access to health and learning supports, high expectations, and a positive school climate – all of which are necessary for students to thrive in the twenty-first century.

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/eo/in/wholechildres.asp>

Back to School Tips for Parents

Model confidence, create structure, and get to know the new teacher

[Harold S. Koplewicz, MD](#)

Here are six things parents need to know about starting school with vulnerable children:

1. Mental health problems emerge at back-to-school time.
2. Kids' brains are changing dramatically.
3. Anxious parents send anxious kids to school.
4. Teachers matter, maybe even more than you think.
5. Homework time is crucial.
6. Don't jump to conclusions.

<https://childmind.org/article/helping-children-with-special-needs-go-back-to-school/>

Parents, Try These 6 Tips from Special Ed Teachers

Below are six highly effective teaching practices and advice for how to implement them at home.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Proximity | 4. Choice |
| 2. Clear Expectations | 5. Preferential Seating |
| 3. Leadership Opportunities | 6. Recognizing Effort |

<https://www.noodle.com/articles/parents-try-these-6-tips-from-special-ed-teachers>



Launching young readers!

Reading Rockets

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

By: [Reading Rockets](#)

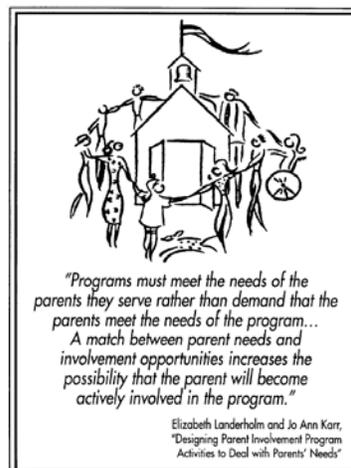
Our Top 8 back-to-school tips for parents emphasize communication, organization, and staying up-to-date on special education news.

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.

Download this article as a [PDF document](#).

- Organize all that paperwork
- Start a communication log
- Review your child's current IEP
- Relieve back-to-school jitters
- Keep everyone informed
- Stay up-to-date on special education news
- Attend school events

<https://goo.gl/NxguiQ>



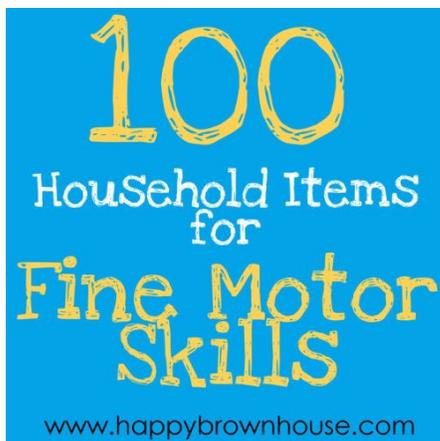
"Programs must meet the needs of the parents they serve rather than demand that the parents meet the needs of the program... A match between parent needs and involvement opportunities increases the possibility that the parent will become actively involved in the program."

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

EDUCATIONAL
EQUITY FOR ALL
Giving kids what they need to succeed

Tana Donaghy, President, Educational Equity For All
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Feature Idea of Month



<https://happybrownhouse.com/100-household-items-for-fine-motor-skills/>



EASING TRANSITION: TIPS FOR PARENTS OF STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

1. Visit the school site with your child. Point out bathrooms, the cafeteria, office, playground, etc. Older students may benefit from printed maps with time schedules. Talk to your child about exciting new classes, activities and events he or she can participate in.
2. Help your child reconnect with schoolmates. Ask if your child's school has a buddy system or if students in school leadership are available to help as mentors or guides.
3. Review Individual Education Program (IEP) goals. Ensure the goals are still relevant and note the date of the annual review. Remember, you can request an IEP review anytime. And be sure to discuss assessment accommodations for your child.
4. Connect with the teacher. Write a brief introduction about your child (including a photo) with his or her likes and dislikes, social/emotional set-offs, motivators, methods of communication, pertinent medical information and any other important information. The more proactive and honest you are, the better teachers and school staff will be able to meet your child's needs.
5. Help plan an ability-awareness training. If your child is in a general education class, consider helping to plan an ability-awareness training with the class. Make sure to get buy-in from your child first. Write a story for the other kids so they can understand what makes him or her unique, and things that may be difficult for your child.
6. Keep paperwork organized. Create a family calendar of school events, special education meetings, conferences, etc.

WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

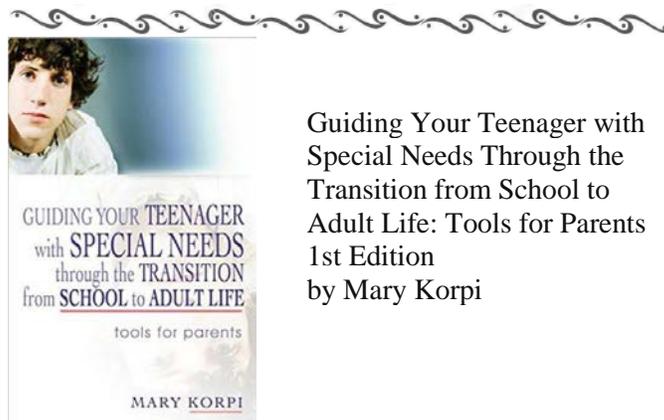
<https://www.iidc.indiana.edu/pages/autism-house>
<https://www.iidc.indiana.edu/pages/using-visual-schedules-a-guide-for-parents>
http://sesa.org/pub/AARC/UW_Lecture_Handout_Oct2012.pdf



Tips for Involved
Parents from Gwinnett
County Public Schools

Tips for a productive IEP meeting with your child's special education team
Before the IEP, During the IEP and After the IEP

Some information was adapted from the National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities (also known as NICHCY) and www.greatschools.org by GCPS Special Education Parent Mentors Jackie McNair and Dawn Albanese <https://goo.gl/JXkrn2>



Guiding Your Teenager with
Special Needs Through the
Transition from School to
Adult Life: Tools for Parents
1st Edition
by Mary Korpi

7. Continue learning. Stay up-to-date on special education news and legislation, so you can advocate for your child, and all children.
8. Create a communication log. This will help ensure that you and the school staff are on the same page. Be sure to note the dates, times and nature of the communications you have.
9. Attend school events when possible. School events such as back-to-school night and parent-teacher conferences offer a great opportunity to meet staff and other students and families.
10. Offer to help, either in the classroom or at PTA-sponsored events.

Download these tips in six languages:

[ENGLISH](#) [SPANISH](#) [ARABIC](#) [CHINESE](#) [VIETNAMESE](#) [TAGALOG](#)

<https://capta.org/focus-areas/education/special-needs/tips-for-parents-of-students-with-special-needs/>