



Parent Partnerships

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

August 2017

California Department of Education News



[July 17, 2017 ESSA Update #8](#)

[Letter](#) (added 17-Jul-2017)

Letter from the California Department of Education to local educational agencies providing an

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/es/letter17jul17.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.



1. Organize all that paperwork
2. Start a communication log
3. Review your child's current IEP
4. Relieve back-to-school jitters
5. Keep everyone informed
6. Establish before and after school routines
7. Stay up-to-date on special education news
8. Attend school events

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

Back to School Health + Resource Fair

The only back to school inclusion event and health and wellness fair in Los Angeles for children with developmental disabilities and their siblings, peers and families, Back to School is a comprehensive, annual resource fair that brings together over 1,200 participants for a day of health education, resources, interactive play, and community engagement. Over 50 medical and health resource vendors provide families with free medical and dental screenings, legal counseling, cooking and exercise demonstrations, and workshops on a wide range of topics from the latest adaptive technology for the classroom to strategies to reduce your blood pressure through daily exercises.

Back to School Health & Resource Fair normally takes place in the last week of August.

<http://snnla.org/programs/health/back-to-school-health-resource-fair/>



Feature Idea of Month



DTI: LAMINATED CARD SERIES- SENSORY MODULATION & POSITIVE BEHAVIORAL STRATEGIES

Each front and back color
card is packed with key

concepts, strategies, and interventions for behavioral AND sensory modulation. The Positive Behavioral Strategies card includes categories such as Avert a Crisis or Meltdown, Reinforcers, Consequences, Molding Behavior and more. The Sensory Modulation Pack offers cards on Over-Responsive, Under-Responsive, and Sensory Seeking Behaviors; buy as a pack or individually. <http://www.therapro.com/DTI-Laminated-Card-Series-Sensory-Modulation-Positive-Behavioral-Strategies.html>

RDIconnect™

Relationship

Development Intervention (RDI®) offers treatment programs for individuals and families that face Autism Spectrum Disorders and other developmental difficulties.

Episode #34: Defining Success as A Parent Guide by Dr. Steven Gutstein

Take a look at this short webinar/podcast.

<http://www.rdiconnect.com/episode-34-defining-success-as-a-parent-guide/>

Easing the Back-to-School Transition for Kids with

Special Needs posted by Abbi Peretsto

Here are 10 things you can do today to help prepare your special needs child for going back to school:

1. Make a Transition Book
2. Take Charge
3. Learn the New Routine
4. Prep Slowly
5. Keep Your IEP Available
6. Snap Photos for Social Stories
7. Make Digital Copies of Your IEP and Other Paperwork
8. Schedule Your Well-Child Check up
9. Talk to Your Child
10. Prepare a One-Page Guide to Your Child

<http://www.care.com/c/stories/6614/easing-the-back-to-school-transition-for-kids/>

WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

<https://goo.gl/5IGXxs>

<https://goo.gl/cRKjFi>

<http://www.scarymommy.com/back-to-school-supplies/>

Giving It a R.E.S.T.

Even with the potential stressors that come with this time of year, helping your child through it can be easier than you think. Just remember to R.E.S.T.:

1. Reward! Reward! Reward! Every success your child experiences — even just getting through the day — [. Talk about how school went, likes and dislikes, and make it a big deal. Relish every detail. Showcase any accomplishments, from new art projects or the letter of the week. This will help reinforce what your child has learned, and it will also build excitement for the next day's assignments.](#)

2. Enjoy the buildup. Have your child go through the list of back-to-school supplies and help you shop. Take him or her shopping for new clothes. Make a countdown calendar to have a physical representation of the building excitement. Heading back to school should never be a surprise — treating September as a transitional month helps to set kids on the right path long before the school bell rings.

3. Stay involved. Just as the lead-in to starting school is crucial, so is an ongoing interest in your child's time in the classroom. [Numerous studies](#) have found that children with more actively involved parents perform far better in their studies. Where your schedule allows it, look for any opportunity to help out, as this direct connection helps both your child and his or her teacher to succeed.

4. Talk to the teacher. Teachers and professionals love to hear from you! Oftentimes, they can be left wondering if parents are too overwhelmed by daily concerns to receive feedback and communication. These professionals want to see positive results in your child just as much as you do and, by working together, that becomes easier and more manageable. Don't wait until a problem arises to reach out. Build a relationship with everyone involved in your child's academic story!

<http://www.autismsupportnetwork.com/news/autism-help-your-child-special-needs-enjoy-back-school-experience-2578295#ixzz4nUhlbpQk>



Parent Advocacy Mentor (PAM) Cycle 22 / Los Angeles-Free <https://goo.gl/p1AQd1>

This 8 week, 25-hour intensive training program provides parents and caretakers with the tools necessary to become more effective advocates for children with special needs and become mentors to other parents.