



# Strengthening Parent Relationships

Parents are usually the first to learn about the unique characteristics and communication differences of their child. They can contribute a great deal on insight if there is a good home to school relationship. Below are some ideas and suggestions to enhance that relationship.

## IEP Meetings

Start your meetings with a video of the student doing a task that the parent may not see them do at home.

Show a video of the student during a time they enjoy.

Tell a positive, encouraging, or funny story about the student.



Positive  
Opportunity for Growth  
Positive

Allow for parents to provide input and participate in discussions.

- Ensuring enough time is set aside for each meeting can help reduce the need to get through all components of an IEP too quickly and improve the parents' confidence in the team and their child's educational plan.

## Communication

It may be difficult for parents to see the progress their student with autism is making. A weekly or daily update with successes you are seeing in the classroom can help to strengthen your relationship with the parent and also show your dedication to their child.

Here are some examples:

- At the beginning of the year, send home a questionnaire of the student's likes and dislikes. Parents will appreciate giving input and it will help determine some motivators and stressors for the child until you get to know them better.
- Take a video of the child succeeding on a task and email or text the parent.
- A daily "what we did today" sheet.
- A weekly "Highlight" of student successes, no matter how big or small.
- Send home pictures of task boxes or sensory bins, especially the ones their student uses.
- Follow up is important for gaining parents' confidence and building relationships.





TMCSEA has several books and videos available for loan that may be of interest to parents such as:

- Visual Toilet Training
- Model Me Kids-Friendship, Time for School, Playdates
- Special Diets for Special Kids
- Just Take a Bite
- Autism at Home
- Autism Through a Sister's Eyes

Email [aealey@tmcsea.org](mailto:aealey@tmcsea.org) for checkout details.

### Special Needs Support Group for Parents with Young Children

Located at Easter Seals, 507 Armstrong Ave. Peoria, IL 61603

For more information call or text Erica at (309)360-9743

Dates:

January 6, 2020

February 3, 2020

March 2, 2020

Time: 6 to 7:30

## Upcoming Free and Local Workshops by TMCSEA.

- ❖ You Can't Make Me! 5 Levels of Defiance & How to Effectively Respond to Each - Register here
- ❖ AT to Promote Universal Design Learning & Support Executive Function - Register here
- ❖ Behavior Problem Solving - Register here

Please register soon at <http://www.tmcsea.org/inservice.htm>

