



Each and Every Child

Quick news for Parents, Teachers and Students

An e-newsletter by the Iowa Department of Education's Bureau of Student and Family Support Services

Autism: How to (*really*) make a difference

In the world of science, what we don't know about the autism spectrum disorder (ASD) far exceeds what we do know.

But in education, what we do know is important: Best practices for educating children within ASD are evidence-based practices. Put another way, the practices used in the classroom should only be those that have been researched and tested for effectiveness.

Make no mistake: This isn't an easy process.

There are two elements every team must take into consideration: research and data. Research is simple: Is there scientific evidence showing that a specific approach works? Data collection may be less



obvious. But it comes down to this: Every student responds in different ways to interventions. The data will show positive change if a specific practice works for the individual child.

Evidence-based practices are likely to produce the best possible outcome for the individual child. Simply put, if we don't do the intervention well or implement the strategy effectively, insufficient progress becomes likely.

Best practices require using established, researched approaches to working with the child. In addition, best

Busy Work?

Myth: Data collection is designed to be busy work, but its purpose is questionable.

Reality: By examining your data, you can direct your activities and tell if you actually served a child.

practices must include:
 * **Professional judgment** and decision making (i.e. with data). That is determined by the team supporting the child.

* **Consider values** and preferences of families. Not every family shares the same values. For

instance, families of Amish descent may resist technological supports which would require teams to consider the impact of the culture.

* **Implementing the intervention** as designed. A sincere attempt does not necessarily mean a successful outcome. Everyone needs some training on how interventions are implemented.

Professionals in autism generally recognize the following two sources as having particularly effective treatments for autism that are evidence-based (*the links are live on the attached PDF*):

National Autism Center:
[Click Here](#)

National Professional Development Center on Autism:
[Click Here](#)

When counting to 10 isn't enough...

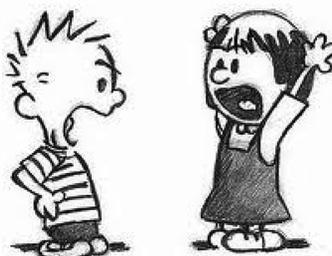
Disagreement is a part of life. Most of the time, we're able to work things out. That is the ideal.

But once in a while, through no particular fault of anyone, getting a third party involved may be necessary.

When parents and school officials disagree on the course of action on how to

properly help a student, your Area Educational Agency (AEA) have people who can help.

There are trained mediators who can listen to both sides carefully, and craft solutions that will be acceptable to all. Mediators are there at the request of either the parent or educator.



To request a mediator, contact your local AEA and ask for the conflict coordinator. Remember, we are all in this together, and want the very best resolutions for each and every child.

Bully for them

What is your school's bullying policy? Find out by following this link:

[Click Here](#)

Our friends at the non-profit Iowa Safe Schools, an anti-bullying initiative, are hosting an event Sept. 1 in Des Moines. More information? Go to

[Click Here](#)