

**Education: Helping Students with Autism: Tips for Educators –
Working with Families**

Resource: *Helping Students with Autism: Tips for Educators* (2009). American Federation of Teachers and Easter Seals. Abstracted by the IDEA Partnership from “Working with Families”, pp. 7-11. Available at <http://www.ccw.org/storage/ccworkforce/documents/aft%20autism%20report.pdf>

Reaction Questions:

1. Did any information within this brief surprise you?
2. In your view, how can parental input influence the collaborative process?
3. From your viewpoint, why is collaboration between parents/caregivers and the educational system important?
4. From your perspective, how might your role in collaboration change as children and families grow?
5. How does collaboration between systems and families change over time?
6. What unforeseen things might come to light through collaboration?
7. Who might be the potential community partners that can support collaborative work with parents?
8. How will we know when we have successfully increased parent participation within our school/district state?
9. As you communicate with parents, what medium are you using? What else could you do?
10. If you were asked to identify your goals for effective parent collaboration, how would you respond?

Application Questions:

1. How might your district/school ensure teachers, related services personnel, and families have accurate information and access to resources about autism interventions?
2. What is the current status of parent involvement in your district/school?
3. Does your school/district establish relationships with community providers that can help families that are struggling? What are the resources that families can be referred to if they are experiencing stress?
4. What professional development is your district/school providing to assist key educational personnel who are talking to parents? Resources are they using?
5. To what extent does your school district involve the student in the collaboration process? In what ways can you work with families, including the student with ASD? How will this process change over time?
6. How can we use these questions to inform professionals of the value of parental involvement?

Dialogue Guides are developed to help you bring people together to talk about important topics in education. Through the IDEA Partnership at NASDSE, over 50 national organizations work together to select appropriate content material and create question that will help you to explore it.

Call us at 1-877-IDEA-INFO for assistance.



The IDEA Partnership located at the National Association of State Directors of Special Education is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs.