

Inside the School System: How to Navigate and Advocate



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Home



School day begins
before they leave
the house

Model good
behavior

Drop station





Teachers

Reach out to teachers- what do you need, pencils, tissues?

Notebook

Live Google doc

Classroom website

Get name in for conferences right away

Ask about unstructured times, transitions- supports?





School



Custodian,
secretary, food
service, nurse



Show
appreciation

SCHOOL SECRETARY
noun. [skool sek-ri-ter-ee]
Someone who solves a problem
you did not know you had in a
way you do not understand.
See also **wizard**, **magician**





District

Newsletters

Parent liaison/Family Engagement Coordinator





IEP/ Special Education

Working towards what your child needs, not what you want- working towards independence



After school supports



8:00 Math
8:50 Job with Mr. Joe
9:00 Language Arts
9:30 Speech
10:00 Recess
10:15 Science
11:00 Sensory room

Supports

Often times
everyone
can benefit

Visual
schedules



Your child



Choose your battles

Compliment when you can

Encourage dialogue, don't ask "yes" and "no" questions

Don't limit your child, continue to raise your expectations.

What was your easiest class today?



Tips and tricks

Listen to your child

Erase what preconceived notions of what you think it should look like

Looks different for every student and that is ok

RELATIONSHIPS are everything, teachers, admin, so important for them to know that you are trying

Visuals





Behaviors

Behavior is communication

Can't change the behavior if you don't understand why, the behavior is serving a purpose

Proactive NOT reactive

Visuals

Decrease verbal, increase visual



Anxiety



Not lazy

If they could
do better,
they would

Behaviors- Prevention

First/ then language

Consistency (language) with school

Tell individual what to do instead of what not to do

Schedules (words and pictures)

Examples

Behaviors- Prevention



*Before you assume,
try asking.*

CURIANS.COM



Behaviors- Prevention

Structure and
routine

Warn about
changes in
routine

Manipulation vs.
a valid need to
take care of
oneself



Behaviors- Prevention Fails

NOW WHAT?



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1 Voice

Consistent
response

Follow
through

Presume Competence



Encompass



Formerly known as the Autism Society of SE WI

Introduces a fully digital, “must-have”
parent training and empowerment program:

It’s new. It’s groundbreaking.
And it’s covered by waiver funding



Module 1: Intro to Autism

What is Autism? * Celebrating Progress * Glossary of Key ASD Terms * Importance of a Medical Diagnosis * Getting an Educational Determination * Family Mental Health * [Welcome to Vermont](#)

Module 2: Time & Money

How Do We Pay for All of This? * [Understanding CLTS Waiver Program](#) * Non-Monetary Resources Comparing School/Private Therapy * How Much Therapy Is Needed? * Whoa, This is A Lot

Module 3: All About Therapy

Wellness & Diet: a Foundation for Therapy * Guiding Principles of Therapy * [Who Does What?](#) Maximizing Therapy Resources * Screen Time * Social Activities

Module 4: Working with Your School District

Explaining Roles at Your District * Preparing for an IEP * IEP Overview * Understanding a 504 Plan [Understanding BIPs](#) * Rights & Appeals * Advocacy & Cooperation

[Video Introduction to Encompass](#)
(share with parents)



<https://youtu.be/d7E1r9XrNs4>

Questions?

Contact us to get involved or for resources

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