

The Home-School Connection

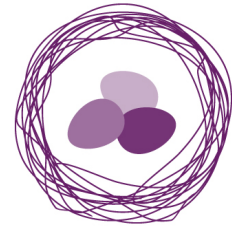
New Staff Training Summer 2013

ASD Nest Support Project

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ASD Nest Program Home-School Connection


Program Roles

- Coordinate parent workshops
- Provide Family e-Newsletter
- Maintain website with resources

Nest School Staff Roles

- Maintain regular communication
- Conduct parent meetings
- Social worker / guidance counselor as liaison between families and the school
- Represent family concerns in team meeting
- Develop connection to the school community

Effective Communication with Families

 Establish and maintain **regular communication**

 Highlight **positives** whenever possible!

- Phone call, note home, or email

 Use **professional, respectful language**

 Maintaining **record of communications** (agreed upon & used by *all* members of the team)

- Communication notebooks or email communication

 Consider the **parent's perspective**

Checking in with positive news

9/12/12

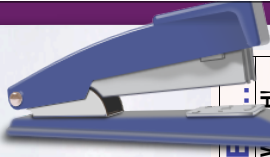
Hi,

Matt had a great day today! He did incredibly well on his math pre-assessment about fractions, and the cluster teacher who's with him at lunch, Claire Littleton, told us he had a nice conversation with a new classmate in the cafeteria at lunchtime.

Be talking to you soon.
Aaron & Elizabeth

Sharing a new strategy

Hi,
 We've been talking about Daniel's frustration with independent work, and I've developed a strategy to help him. I'll write the steps of the strategy and help he needs (attached). Daniel will determine how much help he thinks he'll need for each step, which we will provide. We hope this will decrease his frustration and increase his awareness of how much he is capable of. We'll let you know how it goes. Let us know if you have any questions!
 Best,
 Aaron & Elizabeth



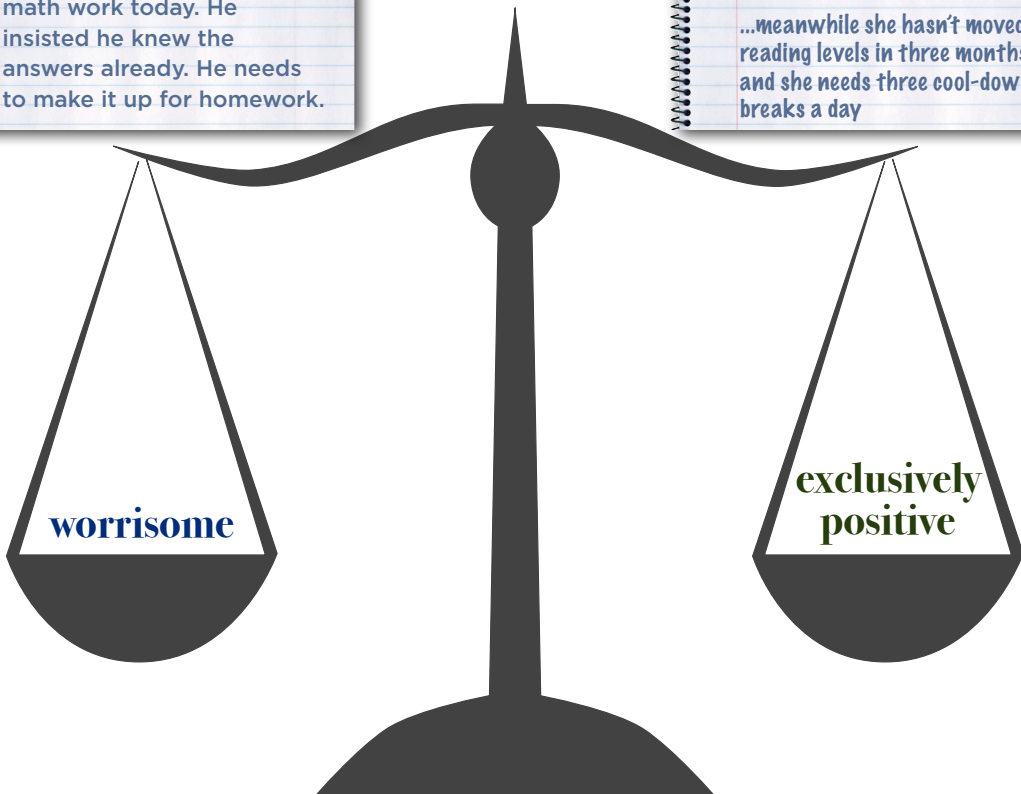
My teachers will always give me the help I NEED.

Hi, I'm definitely going to need help					11/18/12	
Standby- I may need help						
I'm cool- I can do this independently						
Directions:						

L Hough

Josiah didn't do any of his math work today. He insisted he knew the answers already. He needs to make it up for homework.

Alexandra is doing great! She has made a new friend at lunch!
 ...meanwhile she hasn't moved reading levels in three months and she needs three cool-down breaks a day



worrisome

exclusively positive



Achieving Balance in Parent Communication

When writing to families about difficult situations:

1. **describe** clearly what happened, without being dramatic
2. **reassure** them that you are handling it well, by explaining your response and the plan going forward
3. **invite** further discussion or problem-solving

For serious concerns, set up a phone call or in-person meeting

Informing about a difficulty

12/4/12

Hi,

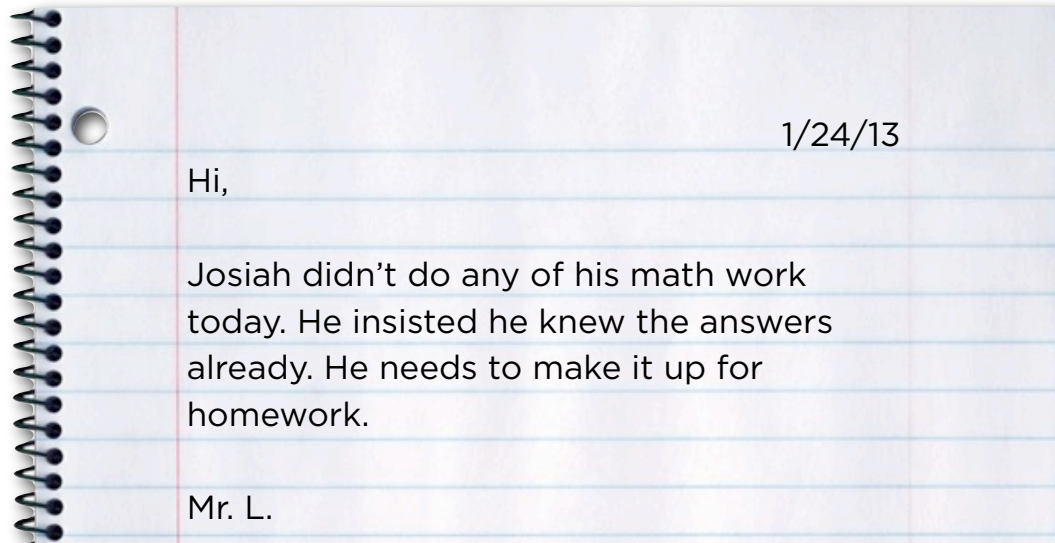
We just wanted to let you know that Ray had a hard time in gym today. It seems he got frustrated during a kickball game and yelled and threw a ball. No one was hurt, but it took him some time to become ready to return to the game. We had a good talk about asking for clarification when rules are confusing, and we're going to be practicing it with him a few times before gym next week. We've also spoken to the gym teacher and he'll have a "break card" with him if he needs it. We think he'll do well with those supports in place and we'll let you know how it goes. Please feel free to write back if you have any questions.

Best,

Aaron & Elizabeth

What would you say differently?

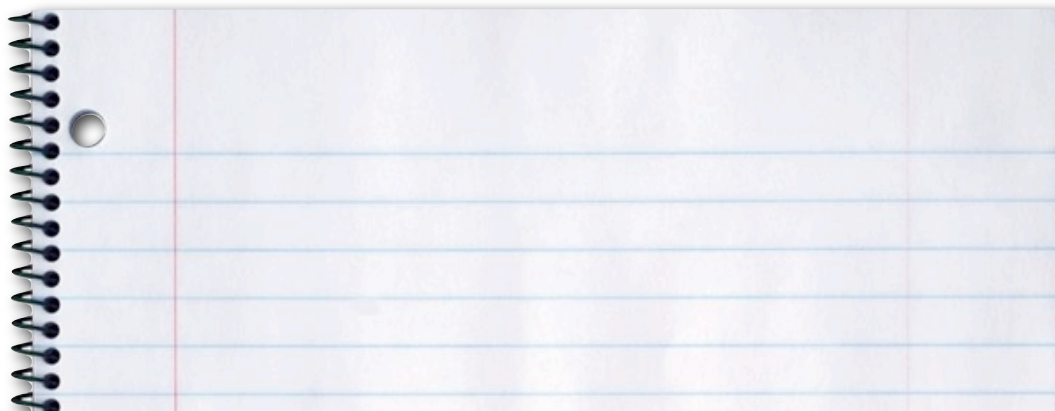
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What would you say?

Your student, Erik, had a meltdown during writing when he couldn't think of what to write.

1. **describe** clearly what happened, without being dramatic
2. **reassure** them that you are handling it well, by explaining your response and the plan going forward
3. **invite** further discussion or problem-solving



Involving parents

Parents can:

- provide insight into child--special interests, strengths, difficulties, sleeping/eating habits, etc.
- preview/review new or challenging material (e.g., read aloud)

We can:

- include them in field trips/class activities/celebrations
- communicate with them about possible play-dates/connections with other students in the class

Final thoughts

We want—

- to make parents feel included as valued members of the team
- to empower parents by giving them strategies to use with their children
- to facilitate a positive working relationship between parents and the school

Remember: Parents are the experts!