

# The Home-School Connection

## New Staff Training

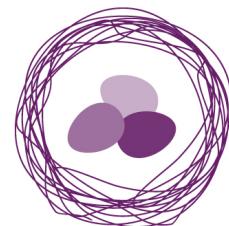
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ASD Nest Support Project

**Aaron Lanou**

Director of Professional Development

aaron.lanou@nyu.edu



## 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

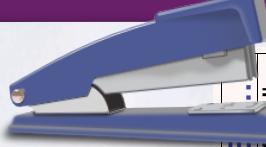
9/12/12

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  
Daniel's frustration  
independent work, and  
a strategy to help him  
help he needs (attached).  
write the steps of the  
Daniel will determine  
thinks he'll need for  
will provide. We hope  
frustration and increase  
how much he is capable  
know how it goes. Let  
any questions!  
Best,  
Aaron & Elizabeth


**My teacher will always give me the help I NEED**

Directions:

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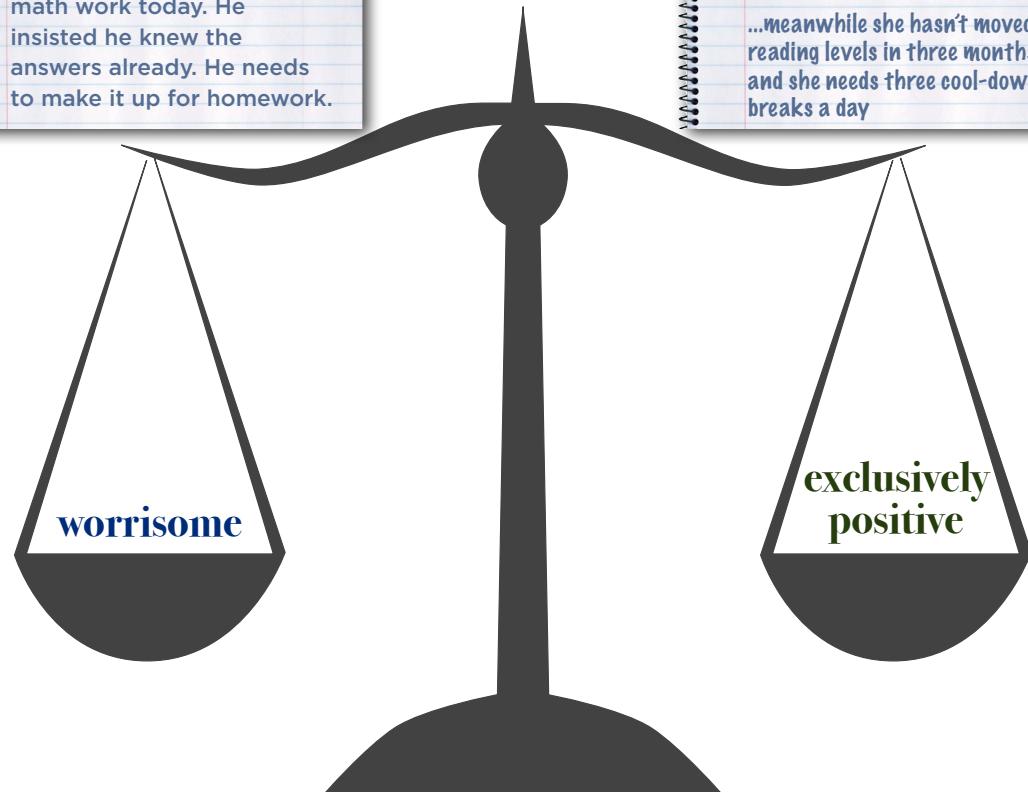
Josiah didn't do any of his  
math work today. He  
insisted he knew the  
answers already. He needs  
to make it up for homework.

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,

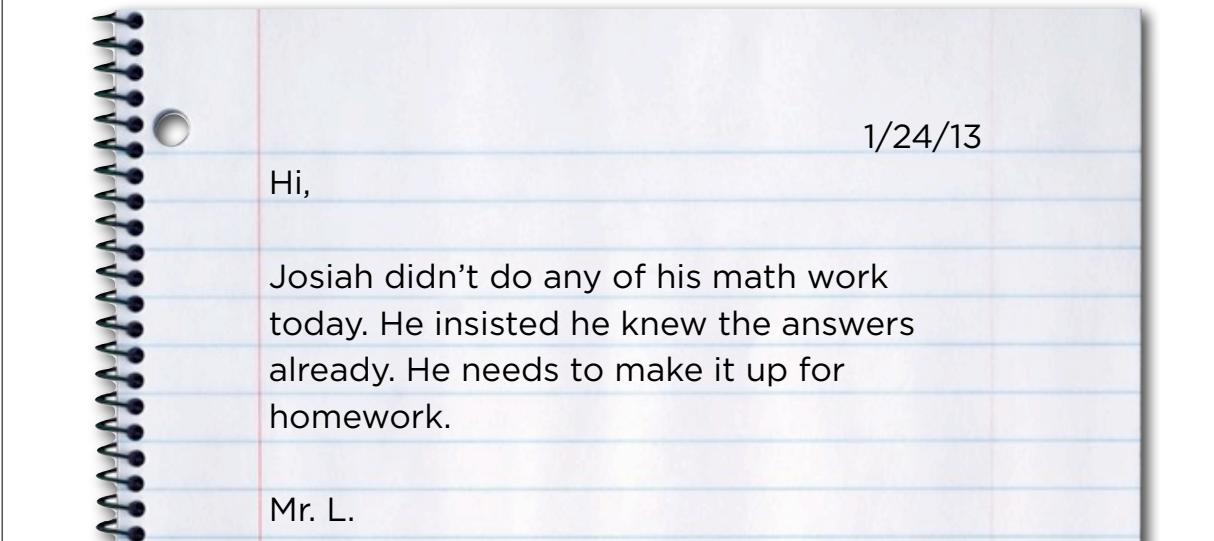
We just wanted to let you know that Ray had a hard time in gym today. It seems he got frustrated during a kickball game and yelled and threw a ball. No one was hurt, but it took him some time to become ready to return to the game. We had a good talk about asking for clarification when rules are confusing, 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?

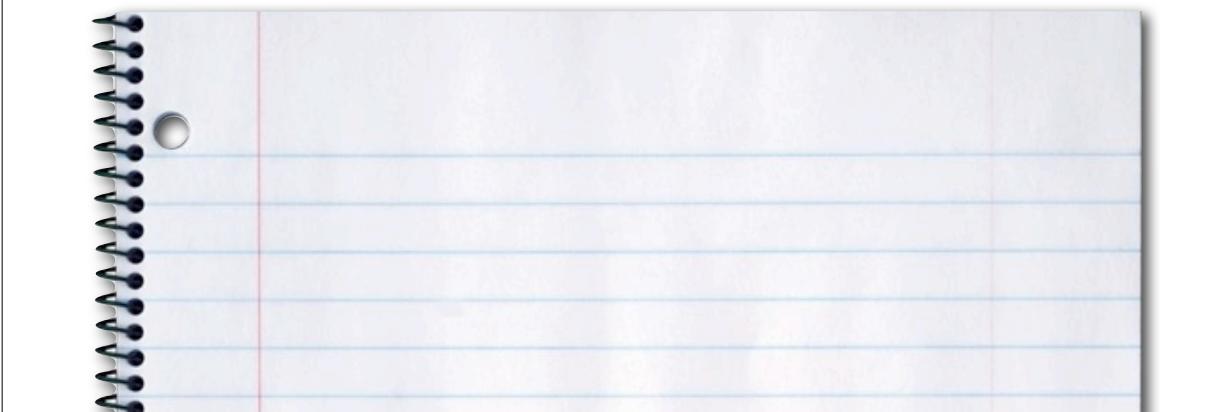
1. **describe** clearly what happened, without being dramatic
2. **reassure** them that you are handling it well, by explaining your response and the plan going forward
3. **invite** further discussion or problem-solving



# 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!*