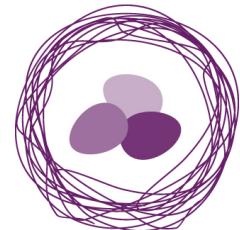


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# **SOCIAL WORKER /** **GUIDANCE COUNSELOR** IN THE ASD NEST PROGRAM

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ASD Nest Support Project,  
NYU Steinhardt



*Created for use in the Nest Program - Not for distribution.*

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## **Role of the SW/GC in the ASD Nest Program**

- SW/GC is the primary liaison between the home and the school
- He/she facilitates positive communication between team members and the family via:
  1. **First Contacts** (with incoming families)
  2. **Parent meetings**
  3. **Team meetings**
  4. **Contact with individual families**
  5. **Work with individual students**

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## SW/GC's Role #1: First Contacts

### Home Visit:

- SW/GC sets up before school starts (accompanied by classroom teacher)
- SW/GC uses standardized home visit interview form
- Teacher uses standardized observation form
- SW/GC & Teacher type up notes and present at team meeting

### School Visit:

- SW/GC sets up visits for all new students on a day before school starts (in students classroom, with his/her teachers)
- SW/GC arranges to video-tape the visits

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## Sample Schedule for Initial School Visit

<b>40 min visits - A1, B1, C1, D1 in Classroom 1; A2, B2, C2, D2 in Classroom 2</b>					
Children A2	A1, B1, B2	Children B1, B2	Children C1, C2	Children D1, D2	
<u>8:30 - 9:00</u>					
<u>9:00 - 9:20</u>	X				
<u>9:20 - 9:40</u>		X			
<u>9:40 - 10:00</u>					
<u>10:00 - 10:20</u>			X		
<u>10:20 - 10:40</u>				X	
<u>10:40 - 11:00</u>					

## SW/GC's Role #2: Parent Meetings

SW/GC is responsible for scheduling **ALL** Parent Meetings

SW/GC facilitates meetings for ASD Nest parents

- May have a co-facilitator or guest speaker
- May have differentiated meetings (e.g., younger vs. older grades)
- Ensures meetings are positive and valuable to parents

SW/GC shares resources

- Distributes information provided by the ASD Nest Program on additional resources useful to Nest families
- Directs parents to Nest website for additional resources

## Meetings Recommended for **ALL** Parents

- **Initial Parent Meeting**
- **Interactive Presentation of Expert Videos**
  - The Role of Medications in the Treatment of ASDs
  - Adolescent Development
  - Talking about Diagnosis with Your Child
  - Self-Regulation: Strategies for Home and School
- **Self-Regulation Workshop** (presented by school OT)
- **Additional topics requested by parents**

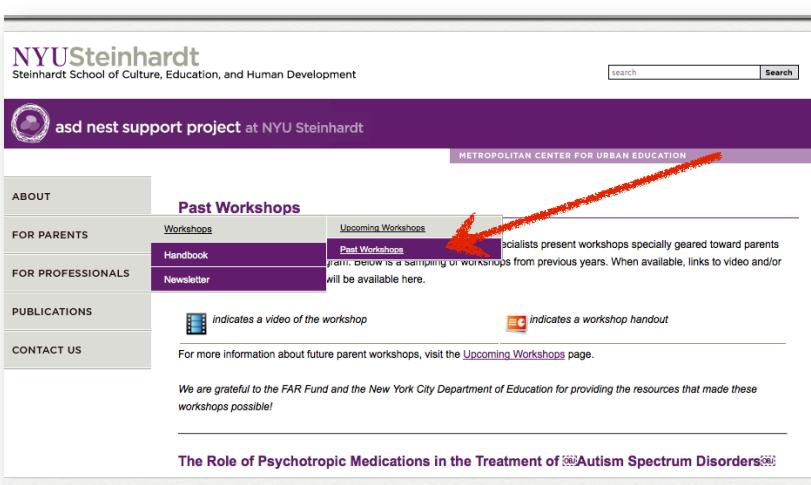
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## Initial Parent Meeting

- Getting to know one another
- Overview of the ASD Nest classroom & guidelines
- Overview of purpose of meetings
- Survey topics parents like to know more about & good times/ days for future monthly meetings
- Facilitate inter-family communication
- Examples
  - *Panel with parents who've been in the program for couple years*
  - *SLPs and OTs come for meet & greet and brief intro about their role*

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## Where to Find Expert Videos



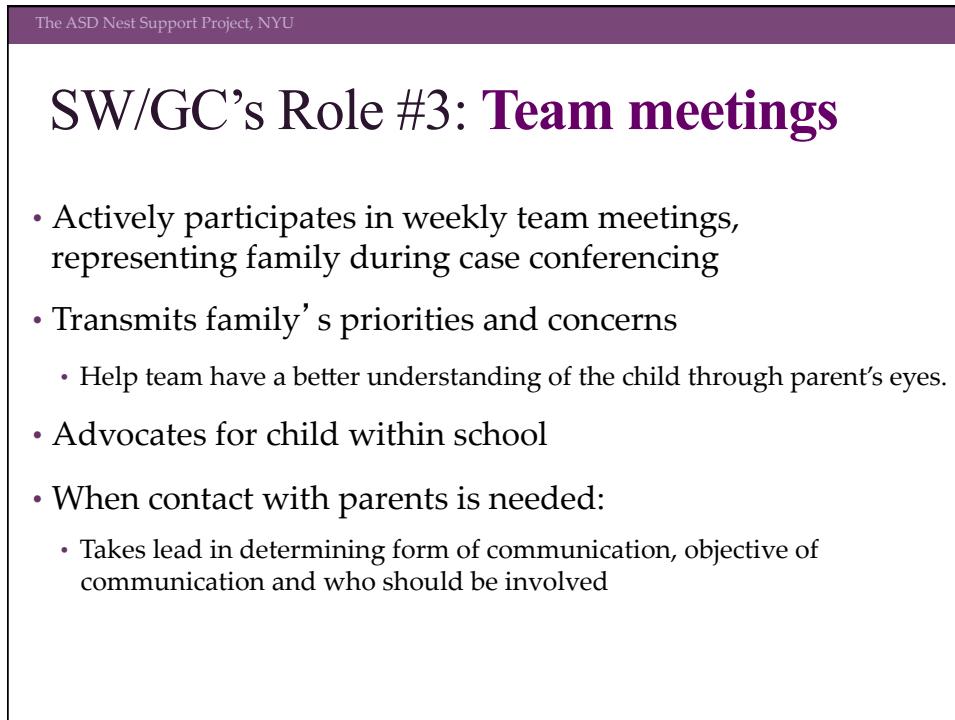
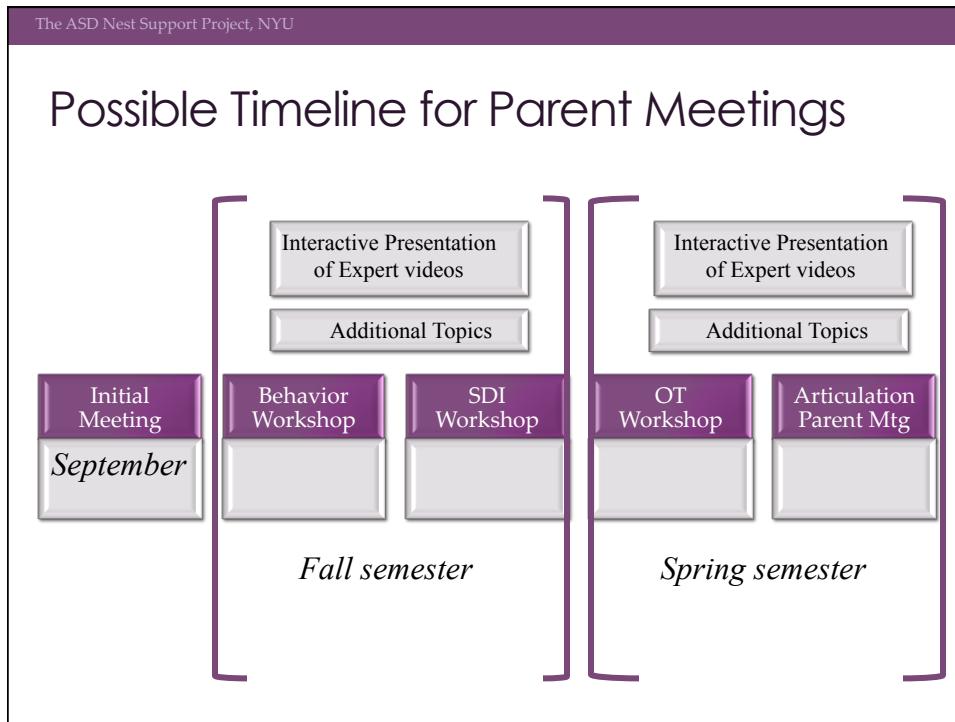
<http://steinhardt.nyu.edu/asdnest/parent/pastworkshops>

## Additional topics requested by parents

- Q & A Meetings
- Homework: How can you support your child with homework?
- Strategies for reducing test anxiety
- Social Stories: What are social stories? How can they be used at home?
- Executive functioning challenges
- Fun and learning for the holidays: natural activities for home and community
- Family fun day

## Specialized Parent Meetings

- For Parents **New** to ASD Nest Program:
  - **SDI Workshop** (Nest-approved presenter)
  - **Behavior Workshop** (Nest-approved presenter)
- For Parents of **4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade** students:
  - **“Moving up to Middle School” Parent Articulation Workshop** (facilitated by SW/GC with Nest-provided power point)



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## SW/GC's Role #4: Contact with Individual Families

- SW/GC learns family's priorities and concerns via home visit and ongoing contacts with family
- Direct contact with parents is often better negotiated by the SW/GC, or with the SW/GC
- Sensitive issues identified by the team often require communication with parent.

*SW/GC should be included in fall and spring parent/teacher conferences and annual IEP meeting*

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## SW/GC's Role #5: Work with Individual Students

- May provide classroom assistance by modeling strategies in her repertoire for, or doing them with, teachers
- May provide short-term individual counseling support sessions for children experiencing unusual stress
- May "special" a child who is not in need of pull-out services, but who could benefit from an ongoing one-to-one relationship

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## **Training/support for SW/GC's in the ASD Nest Program**

- Regular meetings of social workers/guidance counselors working in the ASD Nest Program
- Support from colleagues in the program
- City-wide parent workshops