

Bolstering Family Involvement with Tools and Techniques to Advance Learners with Significant Disabilities



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AbleNet University Webinar
October 19th, 2022

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This session will focus on:

Achieve student Advancement with robust school-family partnership.
Parent Engagement is the most important predictor of child success.
Strong connection between family involvement and student learning.

- Enable students with severe and multiple disabilities to:
 - Gain and sustain academic, behavioral, and functional life skills
 - Promote self-dependence
 - Facilitate multiple opportunities to practice for follow-up at home
- Share ideas, strategies and activity tips with families.
- Assemble an activity kit with resources and adapted tools to share.

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Participant Poll
Are you serving as...

A. General education teacher?

B. Special education teacher?

C. Administrator?


D. Speech pathologist?

E. Other Support Staff


F. Parent

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Padmaja's Sarathy: Books and Publications




Early Childhood Transition Guide




Parenting Book




Executive Function



Students with Significant Disabilities



Serving Students Severe & Multiple Disabilities - Updated




Autism: Support Strategies & Interventions




Autism Seven Steps of Support



Music CD - Transitions



Behavior Guide



Early Childhood: Transition; Parenting Guide; Executive Function - Early Years; and STEM Teaching Strategies



Paraeducator Training Guide and DVD



Mindfulness Guide



Autism Spectrum Disorders - New - Second Edition



Behavioral Strategies



STEM Teaching Strategies For Young Learners



STEM Guide



Paraeducator Training Manual & DVD

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This webinar draws information from the following books and mini-guides:

Positive Behavioral Intervention Strategies for Students With Autism
 Second Edition, 2021
 LRP Publications
<https://www.shoplrp.com/>

Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)
 National Professional Resources
www.NPR,inc.com

Autism Guide, 2015
 National Professional Resources
www.NPR,inc.com

Serving Students With Severe and Multiple Disabilities
 An Updated Edition, 2021
 LRP Publications
<https://www.shoplrp.com/>

Mindfulness Guide, 2020
<https://ed311.com/>

Behavior Guide, 2019
<https://ed311.com/>

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School-Home Partnership

- Robust school-family partnership is essential to advance student outcomes.
 - A collaborative partnership of campus and district staff to assist families.
 - Influence family perceptions and expectations for their child.
- Provide ongoing support & guidance to families to work with their child.
 - With sensitivity and respect towards family lifestyle, preferences, and cultural traditions.
 - Regular communication with parents
 - Daily or weekly school-home communication (a detailed checklist)
 - Sharing an activity kit and other resources
 - Regular meetings – virtually?

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Critical for Learner Success: The Seven Rs

Understanding Educator, Parent, and Student

Emphasis on:

- Routines
- Rehearsal
- Reinforcement
- Resources

Roles
Relationships
Responsibilities

The Seven Rs to enable student advancement and to promote self-dependence

Begin with the end in mind.
Outcome: Quality of life improvement

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Understanding Learner's Learning Needs

May present complex and diverse learning needs.
Need ongoing and repeated practice for skill acquisition and mastery.

Academic/Cognitive Skills Using Language & Literacy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication Expressing needs & wants Making choices Vocabulary development Comprehension Using Math in daily routines <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using numbers in a variety of situations (eating, laundry) Measurement concepts Money skills 	1 2 3 4 5 Social-emotional Behavioral Skills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fostering Executive Function <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attention and focus Impulse control Cognitive flexibility Identify & express emotions Practice self-calming skills Increase social interactions 	10 Functional Skills for Self-dependence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify & participate actively in daily routines Reach & grasp objects Identify & locate personal items - Make food/clothing selection Follow a 2-step sequence Express preferences Increase body awareness & personal hygiene.
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Participant Poll - 2

What are some support tools that you use to assist families to work with their child? Check all that apply.

1. Weekly Checklist (detailing specific academic & functional activities the student is working on)?
2. Regular Virtual/In-person Meetings (to coach families on specific learning activities)?
3. Share an Activity Learning Kit with families (with student-specific materials)?
4. Send a Daily Note to Parents?

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Language and Literacy Opportunities

Routines, Rehearsal, Reinforcement and Resources

Coaching Families on...
Building Attention, Vocabulary, and Comprehension.

- Story telling to promote attention, memory and self-regulation.
- Taking turns – Parent and child (and with siblings) build a story together.
 - Parent/sibling begins the story and target child adds a bit to the story (points, holds an object, shows a picture, etc.) and the back and forth continues.
 - Build an imaginative story or a story that is familiar.
- Children need lots of opportunities to respond & express themselves in multiple ways.
- Strengthen language competence anywhere, anytime. Parents can engage in communication while shopping, cooking, riding in the car, and relaxing at home.

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Rehearsal and Reinforcement

Coaching Families on...
Brainstorming to Build Vocabulary.

Food makes you think of...

Getting dressed for school...

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Math and Science

Rehearsal, Routine, and Reinforcement Opportunities
Coaching Families on...

While walking, or at the park/zo:

- Count the trees, flowers, nests, dogs.
- Practice animal names.
- Learn Life Cycle: Plants, Insects, etc.

Count, Add, Subtract & more

While Walking

At Home

At the Restaurant

At the Grocery Store

While Riding in the Car

Measurement

Measure items around the house: Inch, foot, yard.

Big/Small; Short/Tall; Long/Short; More, Less

Cup, Pint, Gallon

Tell time

Fractions

1/2 a banana

1/4 cup of milk

3/4 cup of water

Money

Which item is less expensive?

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Coaching Families on... Math Activities and More...

- ❑ **Count the Steps**™ to the store, and back to the car.
- ❑ Make it a guessing and prediction game for fun.

❑ **Count** the silverware, plates, cups, cookies, M&M's, etc.

❑ Figure out less/more.

4 apples for \$4.00

Practice money skills at the grocery store. Which is a better Buy?

10 apples for \$8.00

Patterns

▲▲▲▲▲
2, 4, 6, 8, 10, what comes next?

Make a prediction about # of cookies, M&Ms, etc. in the bag.

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Build Focus, Attention and Cognitive Flexibility (Executive Function) Coaching Families on... Playing Games At Home and On-the-Go

Playing Games to Reinforce Academic, Social-emotional and Functional Abilities.

Dice Games

Vocabulary Game
 Topping Game

Memory Game

Make-believe Game

Beanbag Toss

Story building
 When we visited the zoo

Go No Go
 Physical Movement Activities

I spy game

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Fostering Learner's (Child's) Self-dependence!

Roles During Routines: Responsibilities assigned and Reinforced.

- ✓ Eating a meal. ✓ Making snack/assisting with snack and meal preparation.
- ✓ Sorting out laundry.
- ✓ Helping at the grocery store. ✓ Ordering a meal in a restaurant.
- ✓ Cooperating at the doctor's office.

- Assign specific daily chores that he/she must do around the house to assist family. Match it to the age and the developmental level of the child. (aided with visuals/technology)
- Allowing child to perform whatever tasks are possible without the need for adult assistance. Not expecting perfect results..
- Offer choices - Encourage and empower her to make decisions independently.
 - **Important - Focusing on strengths and nurturing them.**
 - **Positive Strokes when task attempted/completed.**

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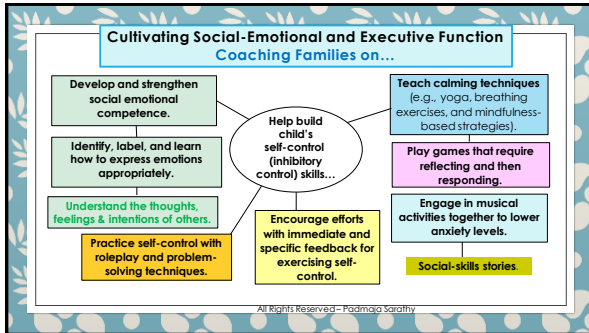
Eating A Meal: Learning During Routines

Rehearsing and Reinforcing - Encouraging Self-dependence Skills

- Identifying food from non-edible items.
- Making a choice, expressing preferences, likes/dislikes.
- Associating objects that go with the routine.
- Nurturing functional communication.
- Picking up and eating finger food item.
- Asking for/requesting for more.
- Obtaining needed items by self.
- Throwing away trash.

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Coaching Families on... Behavior Tips: in Routine (changes) & Rehearsal

- Using positive and preventive approaches when encountering behavior issues.
- To be **Consistent, Calm** and **Constructive** in **Coaching** children (a must for kids with ASD).
- Plan ahead, Watch out for triggering events, Avoid escalation, Encourage efforts.**
 - Getting ready for school.
 - Getting on the bus.
 - Shopping at the store.
 - Waiting & cooperating at doctor's office.
 - Visiting family/friends.

Using Visuals

Calming Breaths

Mindfulness Exercises

- Provide brief explanation of what is currently happening. Use photo-aided reminder cards.
- Teach and practice self-calming techniques daily - calming breaths and mindfulness.
- Help make the transition to the next task smoothly and calmly.

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Prevention and De-escalation Coaching the Parent - Some Do's and Don'ts

Crisis and Meltdown Support. Be Consistent, Calm and Constructive. Plan Ahead, Be Proactive.

- Prevent** a Crisis. **Prepare Ahead** just in case of a crisis.
- Provide support to child during meltdown and crisis.
- Remain calm. Take deep breaths.
- Remain nonconfrontational.
- Don't get into a power struggle.
- Do minimize talking to the child.
- Don't discuss the meltdown behaviors or get into argument or react angrily.

Navigate out of the Situation, Rather than Escalate.

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Learning Activity Kit Items to Share with Families

Share Story Tools: to foster language, comprehension, attention and focus.

- Books & Book Suggestions**
- Communication Devices**
- Vocabulary Tools**
- Adapted books** (<https://tarheelreader.org/>)
- Response tools**
- Social Story**
- Puppets**

Books to read

Books with Repeated lines

Visuals

Happy Play

Response Tools

A set of 'Feeling Faces' to identify (and express emotions safely).

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Cognitive & Interactive Tools



Story Map Organizer Tool

• Story title:

Event 1	Story Theme	Character 1
	Setting	Character 2

Lower Complexity
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Mini White Magnetic Board

Adapted Books


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Activity Kit - Math Tools

Share a graduated number sequence card to practice at home, matching objects to numerals.


Concrete items to count:
Crayons, straws, coins, pencils, etc.

Playing Dice game



Numerals and object matching



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Activity Kit: Expressing Preferences and Making Choices

Teach to make choices.

I like...	I don't like...
Apple	Banana
Dog	Tiger
To paint	To glue pictures


A 2-column chart


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Purse Tools : Language Building Tools & Response Cards

Word Family Pattern

at: 

ing: 

ABC Chart

A	K
B	L
C	M
D	N
E	O
F	P
G	R
H	S
	T

Visuals

Yes:

No:

Visuals

Happy:

Sad:

ABC Chart Use as a Purse Tool. While on-the Go.

A - Apple
B - Bread
C - Cup
D - Door
E - Egg
F - Flower

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Adaptations - Technology Support

Share technology support tools - the team collaborates - to assist family & learner.


Use a Step by step to ...

- Program directions for a personal grooming (brushing teeth, combing hair, etc.) activity.
- Program directions for 'Making a Sandwich' activity.
- Record a story or an adapted (simplified) book.


Quick Talker
an option




Italk2 Communicator
Enable choice-making.



Talking Brix Communicator
To assist with calm-down self-calming breaths.



Create an Adapted Book
Paired with Pictures.
Using Talking Photo Album from Attainment




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Additional Home Activity Tools and Ideas

Share Ideas and Items with families:


A weather chart (to use at home during the weekend and/or school holidays).



Ideas for **creating a sensory box** (with recycling a tissue box and filling it with a variety of materials with different textures.

Explore different textures (rough, smooth, bumpy, dry, moist, sticky, slimy, slippery, etc.

Going on a Nature hunt and collecting seeds, fallen leaves, sticks, bark, etc. and make a nature collage.




Design and build a pin wheel, blow to make spin, or add to a garden.

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Activity Kit Items for Art, Sensory Exploration and Fun

Adapted Stamps



A sensory bag for Sensory Explorations

Touch, Feel & Explore

Colored Cotton Balls

Buttons

Koosh Balls

Feather

Foam Shapes

Beads

Dry Leaves

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School-Home Communication Checklist Inclusive of a Section for Families to Share

A few sample checklist items for parents to share learner-specific information

_____ worked on the following activities at home. Check as appropriate.

- Made choices: at mealtimes in the clothes to wear in the books to read
- Initiated communication
- Listened to a story Responded to story questions (aided with pictures/ concrete items)
- Practiced Math: Counted dog/cars/trees while walking; Money skills at the grocery store
- Assisted with chores at home (setting table, sorting laundry, grocery store).
- Assisted with dressing self Fed self independently using an eating utensil
- Refrained from engaging in the behaviors Throwing objects Screaming self-injury
- Played a game cooperatively with family brother/sister friend

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Teaching Tips – Coaching Families

Coach Families to...

- Arrange materials within reach for the child.
- Use modified seating as matched to child's needs.
- Offer a variety of materials that are easy to grasp.
- Allow for partial participation if full participation is not possible.

Model for the child.

- Wait for a response.
- Describe and expand on child's response.
- Prompt and scaffold.
- Use visual supports and cues.

Celebrate "Aha" moments!

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Model and encourage child's problem solving when she gets frustrated.

Draw attention to what child is doing right.

Offer choices when he needs guidance.

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Resources

- Sarathy, P. (Updated Second Edition, 2021). *Serving students with severe and multiple disabilities: A guide to strategies for successful learning*. Horsham, PA: LRP Publications.
- Sarathy, P. (2021). *Positive Behavior Intervention for Students with Autism: A Practical Guide to Avoiding the Legal Risks of Seclusion and Restraint*. Horsham, PA: LRP Publications.
- Sarathy, P. (2017). *Students With Significant Disabilities: At the Crossroads of IDEA and ESSA*. Horsham, PA: LRP Publications.
- Sarathy, P. (2015). *Autism Spectrum Disorders: Seven Steps of Support*. A quick reference guide, Publisher: National Professional Resources, Inc. ([www. nprinc.com](http://www.nprinc.com))
- Sarathy, P. (2012). *Paraeducator Power Training*, ED311. Austin Texas, Website: Sarathy, P., (2019). P.R.E.V.E.N.T. Problem Behaviors: Seven Contemplative Discipline Steps. ED311. Austin Texas, Website: <http://www.ed311.com/>.

Websites:

- **Tarheel Readers** (<https://tarheelreader.org/>) offers adapted books
- **Sherlock Center on Disabilities** (<https://www.audible.com/start-listen>) offers free access to educational and entertaining audiobook content.

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THANK YOU.

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