Mountain Plains
MHTTC

MHTTC Mental Health Technology Transfer Center Network
Funded by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

EFFECTIVE SUPPORTS FOR STUDENTS WITH AUTISM PARTICIPATING IN REMOTE LEARNING – 1/13/21

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General Resources for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

Autism Focused Intervention Resources & Modules (AFIRM)
https://afirm.fpg.unc.edu/ AFIRM provides online modules and resources for evidence-based practices. AFIRM Modules are designed to help readers learn the step-by-step process of planning for, using, and monitoring an evidence-based practice with learners with ASD from birth to 22 years of age. A free COVID-19 toolkit is also available to help support children and youth with ASD.

Autism Speaks
https://www.autismspeaks.org/ Autism Speaks is an advocacy organization dedicated to promoting solutions for people with autism and their families. Their mission includes increasing acceptance and understanding of people with autism, being a catalyst for research breakthroughs, increasing early childhood screening and timely interventions, improving transition to adulthood, and ensuring access to reliable information and services through the life span. In addition to funding research, they provide online assistance through an online database of nationwide autism services and resources; tool kits that offer critical information and support; and direct assistance by email, phone, and chat. Links to all the above information can be found on their website. Information needed can be searched by topic or life stage, as well as by resources available in a local community. Call the hotline (1-888-AUTISM2 (1-888-288-4762) for support, connection with tools and resources, and assistance with locating autism service providers in your community.

Center for Autism Research (CAR) Autism Roadmap
https://www.carautismroadmap.org/medical-diagnosis-vs-educational-eligibility-for-special-services-important-distinctions-for-those-with-asd/ CAR Autism Roadmap is a resource provided by the Center for Autism Research. This printable resource helps parents understand how having a medical diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) does not automatically mean that a student is eligible for special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). It describes how a medical diagnosis of ASD occurs using DSM criteria. Educational eligibility is determined by school professionals with the criteria can vary from state to state. The following links provide specific information from the DSM-5 (the current edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual), and the basic requirements at preschool age and school age to receive special education services. Each of the following links contain additional links that will provide more in-depth information in each area.
- Diagnostic Criteria for Autism Spectrum Disorder in the DSM-5
- Preschool Special Education Eligibility Criteria
- School-Age Special Education Eligibility Criteria
- Diagnostic and Statistical Manual
- What is Autism Spectrum Disorder?

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Center for Disease Control
https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/index.html (CDC resources) This website from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provides information on Autism Spectrum Disorder including information on what Autism Spectrum Disorder is, screening and diagnosis, treatments, research, and data. Links are available for information on what is new in these areas. Materials and multimedia in the form of fact sheets, video, and community reports are also provided.

https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/autism/case-modules/early-intervention/06-closer-look.html From the CDC, this website describes the process that occurs when a child that is receiving early intervention services reaches the age of 3 and may benefit from services offered through a school district. Items discussed include who evaluates the child, what educational services are available, and what role parents have in the process.

https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/pdf/ccp_pdfs/GOP_kit.pdf As part of the CDC's "Learn the Signs, Act Early," Campaign, is free this downloadable pdf "Go Out and Play!" Kit. This is a resource that includes: (1) sample activities for children ages 3-5; (2) information about monitoring developmental milestones; (3) suggestions on how to make the activity day successful; (4) tips about talking to parents if you suspect a child has a developmental delay; and, (5) a special pullout section with activities to share with parents for at-home play. The kit also includes links to the campaign website (www.cdc.gov/actearly) that has a variety of other free resources.

Healthy Children
https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/Autism/Pages/Autism-Spectrum-Disorder.aspx From healthychildren.org, this website provides valuable information for parents about autism, ranging from recognizing early signs of autism, how symptoms in a child may change as they get older and secure treatment, how common the disorder is, and possible reasons why the number of children reported with the disorder has increased. Links are provided for additional information on early signs of autism; screening, diagnosis, and treatment; and the benefits of early identification.

National Autism Association
https://nationalautismassociation.org/ This site from the National Autism Association provides links to a variety of resources regarding the promotion of safety and wellbeing of individuals with ASD. According to this site, in 2008 Danish researchers found that the mortality risk among the population of people with autism is twice as high as the general population. Information is provided on issues of wandering/elopement; restraint/seclusion; bullying; and sexual abuse. The organization has provided resources to families, training to first responders and service professionals, toolkits to schools, and hosted free educational webinars. There are several downloadable resources and toolkits for caregivers, first responders, and educators, as well as links to support groups and NAA chapters.

https://nationalautismassociation.org/big-red-safety-box/ This is a program from the National Autism Association. This Big Red Safety Box is a free-of-charge toolkit given to families in need as a means to educate, raise awareness and provide simple tools that may assist them in preventing, and responding to, wandering-related emergencies. It includes a link for details on how to apply for the NAA's Big Red Safety Box.

https://nationalautismassociation.org/downloadable-resources/ From the National Autism Association a variety of downloadable toolkits exist to include:

First Signs, Next Steps: A guide for Parents Concerned with their Child's Development

A Guide for Grandparents: Answers to Common Questions & Concerns Relating to Autism Spectrum

Disorders

Age of Majority: A Guide for Caregivers on How to Plan & Prepare

Meet the Police: A Guide to Introducing Children & Adults with ASD to Local Law Enforcement

ASD & Siblings: Addressing the Needs of Neurotypical Siblings of Children with Autism Spectrum

Disorders—A Guide For Parents

ASD & the IEP Process: Tips & Tools for an Effective Individualized Education Plan (IEP)

NAA's Be REDy Booklet for Caregivers (contains extensive resources to help caregivers prevent and

respond to wandering incidents.

Autism & Wandering Prevention Tips

Personal Emergency Profile Sheet (a sheet to complete and update annually, or as needed, and share

with school staff, family, friends, neighbors, caregivers, police, fire, and rescue professionals)

Pediatrics Journal

https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/145/1/e20193448 From the journal *Pediatrics*, the official journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the article "Executive Summary: Identification, Evaluation, and Management of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder," discusses diagnosis, and presents evaluation and treatment as a continuum. It contains a table of contents to help the reader identify specific topic areas in the report. Areas covered in the summary are as follows:

1. Timely Diagnosis, Early Identification, and Evidence-Based Intervention: DSM-5; Early identification; Timely diagnosis; early and effective intervention; Etiologic evaluation; Medical management of co-occurring conditions.
2. Collaboration of Systems of Care: Evidence-based interventions; Common co-occurring conditions; Behavioral health interventions; Community services.
3. Planning for Adolescence and Transition to Adult Systems of Care: things that communities, medical home providers, families, and pediatricians need to do to assist in the transition.
4. Promoting Shared Decision-making With Individuals with ASD and Their Families.
5. Ongoing Education of Pediatric Providers to Support an Informed Medical Home for Children and Youth with ASD.
6. Support for a National Agenda for Basic, Clinical, and Health Services Research About ASD: Need for planning a meaningful research agenda with adequate funding in the areas of early detection, underlying biology, genetic and environmental risk factors, treatment and interventions, services and implementation science, life span services and supports, and epidemiological surveillance and infrastructure.

TEACCH Autism Program

https://teacch.com/. The UNC School of Medicine provides trainings related to ASD and TEACCH methods (virtual trainings available) as well as conducts relevant research and provides consultations for those working with individuals with ASD. Free helpful TEACCH tips can be found at https://teacch.com/resources/teacch-tips/. Clinical services are also provided to those living in North Carolina.

U.S.DOE OSERS Project Heart Blog

https://sites.ed.gov/osers/tag/asd/ The U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services Blog has information about Project HEART: Heightened Excellence in Autism Research and Training, and about the IRIS Modules (Parts I and II) for the Autism Spectrum Disorder. Project Heart provides funding to doctoral candidates to prepare national leaders in the field of special education. They receive leadership training in research, personnel preparation and policy to meet the needs of students with ASD. The IRIS Modules are a two-part series that provide information on the early signs of ASD, the difference between a medical diagnosis and an educational determination, strategies to teach appropriate behaviors and skills and reduce inappropriate behaviors, and explores strategies effective with young children, elementary, middle school and high school students.