

# AUTISM NEWSLETTER

## 10 Critical Components for Success in the Special Education Classroom

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Summarized from Chapter 9

### Component #9 - Communication With Parents (Primary caregivers and legal guardians)

**Rationale** - Sharing information with parents helps ensure that you and the parents are approaching skill building and knowledge acquisition for the student in a similar manner. Keeping documentation of the information that is exchanged between home and school is imperative for tracking what has been shared and when it was communicated.

**Tips for Communicating** -Your tone in communicating with parents determines in large part how your information will be received. Because you will often be communicating via a written format, be aware of how easily words on paper without the assistance of body language, facial expression, or tone of voice can be misinterpreted.

Clear and frequent communication with your students' parents creates a solid foundation for working collaboratively to ensure student progress.

### 9 Ways to Improve Parent-Teacher Communication (Walden University)

Be Warm; Be positive; Foster a Sense of Trust; Communicate Often, ....and in forms that work for parents and guardians; Make parents feel valuable; Acknowledge involvement; Ask questions (and listen!); Don't make assumptions.


**Summary** - Communication with parents builds bridges and results in benefits for your students throughout the school year. Your attention, effort, and time given to communicating and working with your students' parents will result in a solid working relationship. Misunderstandings are less frequent when communication between home and school occurs on a regular basis, and if parents have a concern, they are more likely to come to you to discuss the matter.



**What others like and admire about me:**

- Smiles & giggles often
- Enjoys social interactions
- Easily excited by peers
- Reach for people
- Enjoys music and sign language videos.

**Abdullah Meged**  
(8 years old, Grade 3)



**What's most important to me:**

- My family (dad Walid, mom Fatma, grandma Idil & sister Maryem)
- Best friend in class (Laura)
- DeafBlind Intervener (Tracy)
- Gym class (going "fast" in my chair)

**How to best support/comfort me:**

- Position my feet on footrest in my chair.
- Sit in front of me or on my left side to hear you.
- Talk and sign at the same time, slowly and clearly.
- Use my bandana to clean my face regularly.
- If upset - familiar staff switch and/or showing pictures and talking about my family

I am DeafBlind. I have low vision and need lights on to see with materials up close and enlarged, and I am deaf on my right side so be sure to sit on my left side.

Talk to my IEP manager/classroom teacher for more information.

**More Information:**

- Allow me lots of time to touch, think and process.
- Easily distracted by phones, please no phone use by nearby staff
- Can get upset if not able to watch phone after seeing it in use



**IT'S ALL ABOUT ME**  
**ELIZABETH COLE**

**What we love about Elizabeth!**  
(see pages 4-5 for more info)

- She's a determined self-advocate – ask her about her rally speeches
- Agutsy gal
- Talk about organized!
- A true blue friend
- She lights up a room!
- She's a Fashionista

**A Few Things That Are Important TO Me...**  
(Please see pages 6-10 for more information)

- My independence
- A thriving social life
- Being organized and prepared
- School – Graduation in May 2011!
- Taking good care of myself
- Routines
- Planning for the future – including a job, an apartment, and a boyfriend
- Everything Michael Jackson
- Diet Coke
- Singing at church
- Fun with friends & family
- Writing in my journals
- Avoiding conflict
- Fashion
- Close relationships with Family & Friends

**...And A Few Things That Are Important FOR Me:**  
(Please see pages 11-13 for more information)

- CPap machine, plenty of sleep (may include naps)
- Seizure medications
- Healthy diet and exercise
- Writing in my journals
- Conflict free environments & relationships
- Avoiding a "fireball"

**Here's How You Can Support Me:**  
(Please see pages 12-14 for more information)

- Help me with time, money, cooking shopping & some cleaning
- Help me find a job and job training
- Assist me to fix my hair & pick out cute outfits
- Help me make healthy food choices and to exercise
- Understand if I'm upset, I'm probably tired.
- Talk to me nicely & quietly. No bad words.
- When people around me are angry or there is conflict, help me get away
- Help me understand what's going on, what to expect

## ~ANOTHER CHALLENGE~

Have your students fill out a One Page Description to share with the new people they will be connecting with during the 2023-2024 school year.

### Person-Centered Planning

Creating a One-page Description for future teachers, case managers, and new friends. (What I want other people to know about me.)

#### One-Page Descriptions Must Include:

- What people like and admire about the person.
- What is most important to the person.
- How to best support the person.

#### What might be included:

- Hopes and dreams for the future
- How I communicate with you
- Characteristics of people who best support me
- My story/history
- Things I don't like
- What is important to my family - for some students this may be a requirement

For examples and a template access the following links:

[https://drive.google.com/open?id=1\\_hxfJ6S469QQIVD7h-Sf8QHTv9JvYX3fwZ\\_bEd31RNA&usp=drive\\_copy](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1_hxfJ6S469QQIVD7h-Sf8QHTv9JvYX3fwZ_bEd31RNA&usp=drive_copy)

<https://docs.google.com/drawings/d/1sOySZ5ZxVxx9YIE1bP9OALCEhNls4g5lcCgJTZWzAU/edit>

**Have fun with this!!**