

SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT NEWSLETTER

November/December

Welcome to our first newsletter edition! P.S.7 will be sending out a bi-monthly newsletter to keep you informed of pertinent information, upcoming school and community events, along with links to resources that may help your child.

The IEP

The Individualized Education Program (IEP) is a written statement of our plan to provide your child with a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in their Least Restrictive Environment (LRE).

If you need assistance, including interpretation and translation, to understand your child's IEP, please inform the IEP team. At your request, the IEP will be translated and an interpreter will be provided.

Parent Members

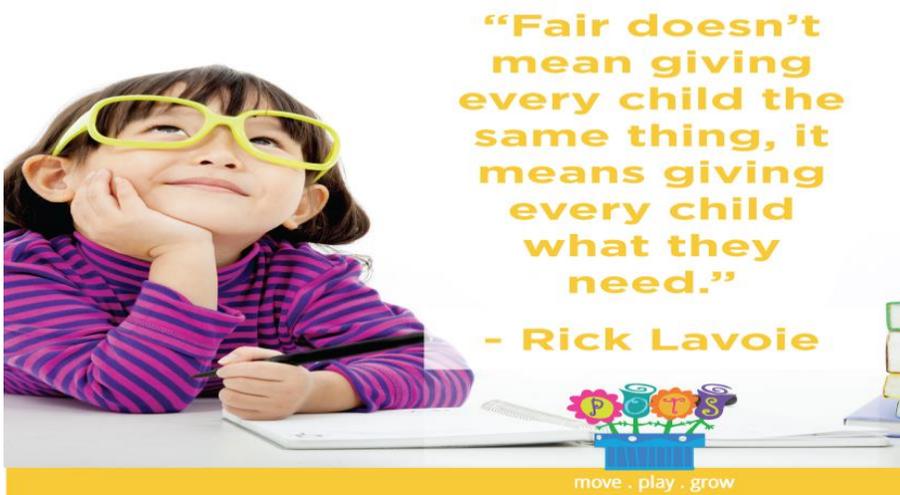
Parent Members contribute valuable information and support to families who request their attendance at an IEP meeting. Parent Members participate in discussions about:

- Eligibility for special education services
- Educational planning and goal-setting
- Learning in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)
- Understanding the evaluation and placement processes

They help to ensure that the student's family member(s):

- Understand and are comfortable with the IEP team's decisions
- Have had their questions and concerns addressed

If you want a Parent Member at your child's IEP meeting, make this request in writing to your school or [Committee on Special Education \(CSE\)](#) at least 72 hours in advance.



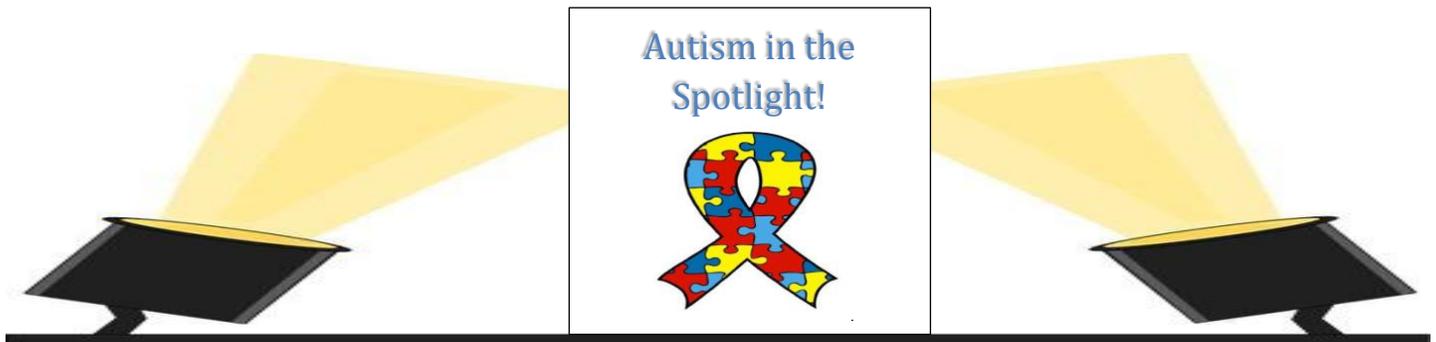
Talking to Teachers/Care Providers

Talk to your child's teachers and care providers. They can share information about how your child is doing in school and you can share information about how your child is doing at home. Here are some questions to help you think about what to share:

- What brings out the best in your child?
- What are your child's strengths, challenges, and interests?
- What does your child like to do outside of school?
- What do you do at home to encourage positive behavior and learning?
- What areas does your child need extra help with?

Questions to Ask

- What are my child's strengths and challenges in the classroom?
- How do you support my child when they need help?
- Do you have examples of my child's work that we can look at together?
- Is my child learning and developing at a rate that is expected for their age?
- How does my child get along with other students in the classroom?
- Are there programs in the community that might help my child?
- What are some learning activities I can do at home or in the neighborhood?
- What are some questions I can ask my child when we read together?
- How can I help my child if they are struggling with homework?



What is Autism?

Autism is a developmental disability that significantly impacts a child's communication skills, social interactions and academic performance. It is generally evident before age 3. There is no known single cause of autism, but increased awareness and early diagnosis/intervention and access to appropriate services/supports lead to significantly improved outcomes. Some of the behaviors associated with autism include delayed learning of language; difficulty making eye contact or holding a conversation; difficulty with reasoning and planning; narrow, intense interests; poor motor skills and sensory sensitivities; resistance to environmental change or change in daily routines.

Some Helpful Links

[Creating a Sensory Friendly Home for Your Child with Autism](#)

[How to Help Your Child Sleep Better](#)

[Sesame Street and Autism \(English\)](#)

[Sesame Street and Autism \(Spanish\)](#)

[Social Stories](#)- Social stories are individualized short stories that depict a social situation that a child with autism may encounter. These social stories are used to teach communal skills through the use of precise information about everyday events that your child may find difficult or confusing.

Community Events

New York Hall of Science



LEGO MAZES

Design and a maze with LEGOs and test your maze out with marbles in Design Lab.

Free with NYSCI admission.

Event Date/Time: Drop in 10am – 5:50pm

Dates- Saturday, November 23

Sunday, November 24

Saturday, November 30

Elmhurst Public Library



CHILDREN'S PROGRAM, GENERAL

Wacky Wednesday

If it's Wednesday, it must be wacky! Join us for activities for children in grades K-6.

DATE & TIME

Nov 27, 4:00pm - 5:00pm

[Add to calendar](#) ▼

LOCATION

Elmhurst

86-07 Broadway, Elmhurst, NY 11373

(718) 271-1020

[Get directions to event.](#)

LANGUAGE

English

Queens Botanical Garden

Christmas in the Garden (FREE)

Sunday, December 8, 12-5pm

Get into the holiday spirit with fun for the whole family! Christmas in the Garden has live musical performances, photos with Santa (fee required), tree lighting, holiday crafts, and face painting (fee required).

Queens Center – 12/1 – Santa Cares



Details

Sunday, December 1, 9 – 11 AM

Sunday, December 8, 9-11 AM

Queens Center

90-15 Queens Blvd, Elmhurst, NY

From Eventbrite.com: Santa Cares: A *sensory-friendly* Santa Photo Experience

Important Phone Numbers

718-446-2726 ext. 3900
Supervisor of Special Education- Naomi Landau

718-446-2726 ext. 3100
Special Education Coordinator
Xiocmara Munoz (Grades K-3)

718-429-5287 ext. 1220
IEP Teacher
Argyro Vatougios (Grades 4-5)

718-446-2726 ext. 3800
Bilingual School Psychologist
Melissa Monaco (Monday-Friday)

718-429-5287 ext 1221
School Psychologist- Michelle Zohn
(Monday and Friday)

718-429-5287 ext 3800
School Psychologist-Marlene Green
(Wednesday-Thursday)

718-446-2726 ext. 3600
Social Worker- Maria Chamorro