Children with Special Needs and Bullying

By Mia Ingui

Children with disabilities, such as physical, developmental, intellectual, and emotional disabilities, are at an increased risk of being bullied. Any amount of factors including physical vulnerability, social skill challenges, or intolerant environments may increase the risk of these children being exposed to intolerance from others.

Another issue stems from recent research, which also suggests that some children with disabilities may bully others as well. It is imperative to create a safe environment for these children, and all children, to prevent unnecessary intolerance and bullying. Special considerations are needed when addressing bullying in youth with disabilities. Disability harassment has many different forms, including verbal harassment, physical threats or threatening written statements. If the bullying occurs in school and the school learns of the disability harassment, the school MUST investigate the incident promptly and respond appropriately, by law. Bullying behavior is considered, "disability harassment" which is prohibited under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. This is reassurance that children with special needs are protected against those who may harass or bully them.

There are also many other resources to help kids with disabilities who are bullied or who bully others, and there are Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) or Section 504 plans that can be useful in creating specialized approaches for preventing and responding to bullying.

Early Warning Signs of a Learning Disability in Young Children

By Lance Halpern EdS., LPC

During the early years of a child's education starting with preschool, children learn at different rates and with different styles. But if your child has significant trouble with numbers, letters, or speech, they may have a learning disability. Learning disabilities are a category of disorders that affect how the brain processes information, making it difficult to grasp some concepts.

A child with a learning disability may understand a story perfectly when it is read to them, but will struggle to answer questions about it afterward. Another child might easily recite the alphabet from A to Z, but be unable to name individual letters when they are pointed out. Still another child may have a hard time putting together puzzles, tying her shoes, or buttoning a sweater.

Children with learning disabilities usually have normal or above normal intelligence, but they have trouble expressing their knowledge. Because it is so difficult for children with learning disabilities to master certain tasks, they often experience frustration, anger, low self-esteem, and even depression. Your child may know just what they want to accomplish, to say or write or do, but getting there isn't a straight path.

Red flags that could indicate a learning disability in young children include:

- Delayed speech
- Pronunciation problems
- Difficulty learning new words
- Difficulty learning to read
- Trouble learning numbers/the alphabet
- Short attention span
- Difficulty following directions
- Poor grasp of a crayon or pen

Diagnosing learning disabilities is controversial. Some experts believe they are over diagnosed, a handy catchall for a host of normal differences in learning styles. Diagnosing learning disabilities in preschoolers and very young children is particularly controversial because they learn at such vastly differing rates. That doesn't mean you should ignore any concerns you have now. Careful diagnosis is important and early intervention can make a big difference in your child's academic future.

If you are worried about your child's competence with reading, writing, numbers, or speech, talk about it with people who are familiar with your child, such as your child's teacher. Teachers are usually adept at spotting the early warning signs of a learning disability. If your child's teacher hasn't already raised the issue with you, don't hesitate to bring up your concerns. The signs of a learning disability can be already strong at a young age and the advice to "wait and see" if your child is just suffering from a momentary setback, and will catch up in no time is truly inappropriate without the concern being formally evaluated and substantiated by a psychologist who is experienced in education matters and has documented familiarity within the school culture.

Learning disabilities are permanent and don't go away, but much can be done to help your child compensate for the disability and learn to work around the problem when identified as soon as possible. As a parent, one of the most important things you can do is support your child and assist with positive learning experiences. Don't try to be an expert on treating learning disabilities yourself. Your job is to provide encouragement, love, and patience and to seek out psychological experts who have the skills to help your child learn.

Congratulations to Jane Lynn Britton on the Launch of her Television Show!

Jane Lynn has taken her years of experience as a parent of an autistic child and is now collaborating with parents and caregivers of children with autism.

In 2003 at the age of two her son was diagnosed with autism. After spending over $100,000 on the best doctors, therapists, and schools, she was shattered because nothing worked. He was not developing as hoped. In fact their situation only got worse! She quit the career she loved and left Dow Jones in 2009 to home-school her son.

Jane Lynn spent 8 years and over 10,000 hours working with her son and teaching him simple things like to look, listen and to engage with her in activities. During that journey, she has successfully trained over 30 people to use her techniques while also learning holistic healing techniques to calm and strengthen the whole family.

Her son is her success story, he is back in school, and he is THRIVING. Her whole family is joyful and vibrant.

To continue her efforts to share her story and her hard-learned lessons on how best to help her special needs son, she created the TV show, Navigate Autism with Jane Lynn. Her goal is to help other parents along their journey, and to bring community together to talk, learn and share resources around autism.

Join her on Wednesdays and Fridays for the only Autism TV show of this genre! She shares tips that she learned that helped her son go from completely exclusive to being interactive, social, and very connected with others. She also features different guests and services who share ways that parents can help their children TODAY.

Debuting on October 15th at 9 PM EST on the WBTVN

Although the show is through Princeton TV in NJ, anyone can watch online. Navigate Autism with Jane Lynn airs each Wednesday at 6:30pm and Friday at 10am on www.princetontv.org. As a new show, it airs 4 times until the next episode. You are able to see 2 new shows each month.

For more information: Tel 609-448-0123
Email: janelynn@navig8autism.com

NAVIGATE AUTISM
With Jane Lynn

5-Step Process for Creating Connections

Former HR leader, trainer and coach for 20 years and mom of two, I home schooled my son for 8 years, spending over 10,000 hours working with him. I trained over 30 people in my process. Now I partner with parents and caregivers teaching the same strategies and techniques to connect deeply with their child, helping both parent and child to thrive, and creating a calmer, more harmonious life.

JANELYNN@NAVIG8AUTISM.COM
609-448-0123
WWW.NAVIG8AUTISM.COM

Join me:

- Each Tuesday at 12:30pm on Facebook Live
- At local workshops
- 1:1 during a free strategy session (by phone)
- On TV channel 30 (Comcast) or 45 (Verizon) for *Navigate Autism with Jane Lynn*