

MINUTES

SECAC

December 5, 2024

In Attendance

Jeanne Erdley, Kara Stone, Suzanne Oshinsky, Colleen Sasdelli, Dorris Tisdale, Jin Chen, Gail Stone, Kathy Pitrat, Kim Heeter, Claudette Lezama, Chabre Hall, LoAn Fine, Maria deMartino, Stacey Egerton, Alisha Bethouille-Stephens, Shilpa Narayan, Molly Johnson, Tracy Masur, Ravinder Assi, Terri Smith, Rosemarie Schulz, Lorien Covelly, Kasara Connor

Presentation – How Best to Support Common Challenges of Autistic Children – Molly Johnson

- I. Communication Challenge
 - a. Speech/language delay
 - b. Loss of words
 - c. Echolalia
 - d. Scripting
 - e. Lack of nonverbal communication
- II. Alternative forms of communication
 - a. AAC device
 - b. Visual supports
 - c. ASL
 - d. Resources
 - i. Instagram – Lily’s Voice
 - ii. Canva – free to use to make visual supports
- III. Things to consider for Communication Challenges
 - a. It should be accessible (device charged)
 - b. Collaboration makes a difference. If we don’t teach an alternate way of communicating, they will rely on behaviors to communicate their needs/wants.
- IV. Sensory Challenge
 - a. Hyper/hypo sensitivity
 - b. Avoiding or seeking input
 - c. Selective eater
 - d. Low tolerance
 - e. Stimming
 - f. Meltdowns
 - g. Limiting participation
- V. Alternative ways for sensory challenges
 - a. Making regulation a priority
 - b. Create a calming corner
 - c. Pictures
 - d. Visual timer
 - e. Visual schedule
 - f. Resource Instagram Brittyn Coleman (Autism dietician)

- VI. Things to consider for Sensory Challenges
 - a. Need for predictability
 - b. Preferring to do things the same way
 - c. Preferring to know what is expected ahead of time
 - d. Responds negatively to changes
 - e. Lack of inclusion
- VII. Motivation Challenge
 - a. Refusal behavior
 - b. Power struggle
 - c. Walking on eggshells
- VIII. Things to consider for motivation challenges
 - a. Set visual boundaries
 - b. Make sure expectations are manageable
 - c. Include special interests
- IX. Processing Information Challenges
 - a. Avoidance
 - b. Delays in skill development
 - c. Lack of participation
 - d. Less inclusion
 - e. Increase in behaviors
- X. Things to consider for processing information challenges
 - a. Present information visually
 - b. Present information in multiple ways
 - c. Provide processing time
 - d. Provide a way to show understanding
- XI. Resources for processing information challenges
 - a. Instagram – Dr. Taylor Day
 - b. Instagram – Ashley Barlow
 - c. Instagram – Chris Wenger

Q & A

Q. Does the child determine how long of a sensory break they need at school?

A. Trial and error.

Q. Do you have examples of how you accommodate PDA (pathological demand avoidance) issues in the classroom? How do you help kids feel more in control?

A. Include choices throughout the day. Resources on Instagram talk a lot about PDA. PDA North America online

Q. What is your email address?

A. Molly@theautismconsultant.us

Q. How can we help staff get PDA training?

A. Talk to administration.

Giveaway Winners

Dorris Tisdale and Jin Chen

Minutes taken by Kara Stone, Secretary/Treasurer