

Thank you for taking time to read this note,

I am in GREAT SUPPORT of requiring *boards of education* to provide BOARD CERTIFIED behavior analyst's to kids with autism. I would encourage, you to look towards other students as well with BEHAVIOR needs.

It has been our experience that:

(1) Without proper HANDS ON FREQUENT and CONTINUAL training and OBSERVATION for kids with BEHAVIOR PLANS in their IEP's....we are leaving kids and their team members w/o the tools needed to effectively TEACH kids...including the PARAS that work 1-1 with our kids.

** We have suffered from people that have had lack of training...but were "presented" as experienced, etc.....

I have seen our son,physically pulled across a playground..because he did not want to get off his swing..hmm...and his hair being pulled by a student that just could not cope with the sound of others voices...I have witnessed in the same classroom a radio that was thrown at a PARA... and well meaning Paras...put our son a physical hold because he was asking for help with the zipper on his coat...that later was found to BE STUCK on the inner lining of said coat..

I could give you more facts, but that is not the purpose of this correspondence...it is to encourage...PROPER licensing in the areas of BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS..and POSITIVE BEHAVIOR SUPPORTS...to encourage those who have a BEHAVIOR PLAN..to FREQUENTLY UPDATE IT.

Presently we have another outdated plan...and the teacher appears to be telling our son he is, regressing, bad, being a baby..ect...when he is upset/nervous/sad/having a behavior. How effective is THAT for a kid with autism, OCD, and anxiety...hmmm...doesn't it make you wonder?!

An UP TO DATE BEHAVIOR PLAN would be FAR more effective in TEACHING our AUTISTIC son WHAT to do...during these times, and training the support staff, the bus driver, and parents what the plan is by the Board Certified Behaviorist...would help our son GENERALIZE across ENVIRONMENTS...The team agreed to a new plan in August...it has yet to be completed...hmmm. Holding them accountable would be expected, wouldn't it?

(2) Due to the above I implore you do NOT put the burden of proof ONLY on PARENTS! Not only are we tired and trying our best to educate ourselves, we find ourselves educating our families communities, Dr's, and yes, even our PPT team members.. this can take a toll on our relationships, and pocketbooks.

We are left with inferior/ no lawyers/ representation..at \$160 an hr.. schools can know how to run uo the "old legal bill" so parents have to back down. Every time we speak with our legal party/advocate we pay more money to them...it is \$10,000 for Due Process just to begin...most of us do NOT have that money. (Especially in this economy)

Schools on the other hand, use their lawyer's at least weekly on a paid agreement already determined yearly... in their budgets.

Finding effective,quality lawyers/advocates...can also prove challenging if not impossible.(We paid \$2,000 for a lawyer...that lawyer did not know our son's name, nor what we were asking in mediation. I had a paid advocate,he took our records.)

Honestly, anything you can do to help parents like us would be greatly appreciated.

Sadly, we are not alone..we are not just looking to "sue" we are looking to have problems in this system..*fixed*. That is all we ask for...and in that we are not alone either..

Thank you for your time,

Sherri Vincent