

# Parent News

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## Sources for Parents and Teachers of Gifted Children

### Web Sites:

[www.oagc.com](http://www.oagc.com) — OHIO Association for Gifted Children; contains links to other web sites and instructions for joining "Ohiogift list-serv" for lively discussion, information, and support.

[www.nagc.com](http://www.nagc.com) — National Association for Gifted Children

[www.hoagiesgifted.com](http://www.hoagiesgifted.com) — Hoagies site for parents and children

[www.sengifted.org](http://www.sengifted.org) — SENG is a great resource and support group for parents

<http://byrdseed.com/11-lists-of-characteristics-of-gifted-students/> — Ian Byrd characteristics of gifted students

## The Parent Mentor Program

### What exactly is a Parent Mentor?

A Parent Mentor is a parent of a child with a disability, and provides a support network to school districts and parents of children with disabilities. The Parent Mentor can provide information and resources to families and school districts free of charge. Services provided by the Parent Mentor include guiding families through the special education process, listening to and providing support for families and educators on an individual basis, attending Individual Education Program (IEP) meetings or other school meetings, organizing workshops or trainings, and building collaborative partnerships between families, schools, and committees to benefit students with disabilities. As a Parent Mentor for Wood County, we are just a phone call away if you need help with your child's special education services, if you need information, or if you have questions.



Sincerely,

Jennifer Vanlerberg and Jenny Myers

# Trainings

Now is the time to register for this year's OCALICON. This is "the nation's premier conference for autism, sensory disabilities, and low-incidence disabilities. This is held November 15-17 in Columbus Ohio. Learn more at [www.ocalicon.org](http://www.ocalicon.org) or call 614-410-0321.

The OCECD (The Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities) is pairing with Allen County Parent Mentor, Jennifer Slechter, to provide a free parent/educator training entitled, "Under-

standing Bullying." This will take place at the Lima Public Library on November 9<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 7:30 PM. For more information contact Jennifer at 419-222-1836 x 114.



On November 3<sup>rd</sup>, you can check out a meeting and join the Wood County Prevention Coalition. The meeting will be held at the Wood County Educational Service Center on Research Drive in Bowling Green. It will be held from 8:30 to 10:00AM, and the guest speaker will be Jennifer Lloyd, Director of Statewide Outreach on Substance Abuse from the Ohio Attorney General's Office. For more information, contact Milan Karna at [mkarna@wcesc.org](mailto:mkarna@wcesc.org) or call 419-354-9010.

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**“Start by doing what’s necessary; then do what’s possible and suddenly you are doing the impossible.” — Francis of Assisi**

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## 5 TIPS TO HELP YOUR CHILD WITH SPECIAL NEEDS MAKE FRIENDS

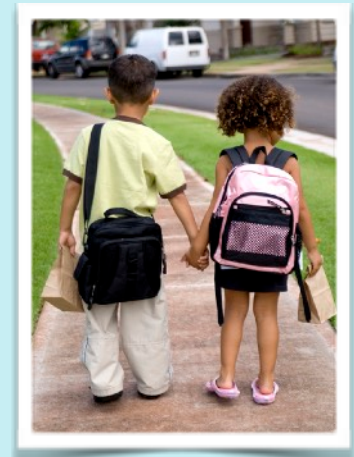
(From Parenting [Special need.org](http://Specialneed.org))

Friendship is a beautiful gift that makes life feel richer, sweeter, and celebratory. People of all ages benefit from having amicable relationships with others and children, especially those with special needs, may need some extra help in developing such meaningful friendships with their peers. Let these five tips help you help your kiddo increase their circle of friends.

1. Ask the right questions – Asking questions like “why?” and “are we there yet?” tends to come natural to children. Actively work with your kids to improve upon this instinctive skill and help them learn to ask the right kinds of questions to start and carry on conversations. A role playing game where you take turns being an investigative journalist could be a fun way to connect with your child and help them learn this valuable social skill.

2. Make eye contact to show interest – Strong eye contact is an invaluable skill that will benefit your child throughout their life. By honing this nonverbal communication skill, your child will be able to improve their conversations with their peers and help them show interest when applicable, Staring contests and gentle coaching can serve as fun, non-direct training opportunities.

3. Promote a social environment – If your child is able to leave the home, take them to places that encourage them to socialize. School, daycare, church, organized sports, camp, boy scouts/girl scouts, playgrounds,



and more all provide ample opportunities for both you and your child to meet others with similar interests. These encounters can lead to planned, repeat hangouts for your kiddos to bond with other children doing activities they love.

4. Organize play dates – You know your child best, so it's easiest for you to create an atmosphere where they will feel comfortable and thrive. Invite 1 to 2 of your child's acquaintances over to your home and have several toys and activities readily available. You can use this time to show the other children what your child is capable of despite their disability and how they can laugh, play, and be a great friend just like other kids.

5. Find a peer mentor – No matter how hard we try; sometimes our kids prefer to learn from people besides their parents. Check with your child's school or community group and see if a peer mentorship can be arranged. This individual can serve as a great role model by teaching your child many social skills through a strategic friendship.

By: Kathleen Bailey Stengel  
Sr. Vice President ABA  
From: PARENTING SPECIAL NEEDS.ORG SEPT/OCT 2017

## International Dyslexia Organization

If you are a parent or professional looking for more information about Dyslexia, check out the International Dyslexia Association at [dyslexiaaids.org](http://dyslexiaaids.org). You can look up local trainings and information by clicking "local resources" and finding "Ohio." There you will find three branches that serve Ohio. Our location would be served by the Northern Ohio Branch. You can view videos, check out simulations, and find lots of general information on this site.

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**"We may encounter many defeats but we must not be defeated." — Maya Angelou**

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## Early Intervention

If you or someone you know has a young child in the home, Ohio Early Intervention can help. You can view the website: [ohioearlyintervention.org](http://ohioearlyintervention.org). You will find success stories from other Ohio families, watch videos, make a referral for services, and find webinars and trainings. There is also a toll free number you can use for referral information as well. (1-800-755-4769)

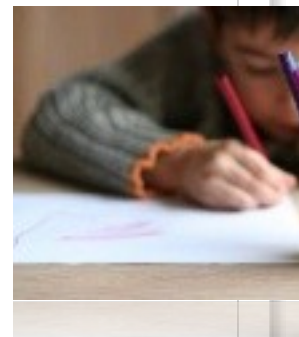
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**"What lies behind you and what lies in front of you pales in comparison to what lives inside you." — Ralph Waldo Emerson**

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## New Special Education Procedural Safeguards Parent Guide is Released

A new special education procedural safeguards notice, *A Guide to Parent Rights in Special Education* is now available for district and parent use. This publication replaces the earlier procedural safeguards notice, *Whose IDEA Is This?* As of August 1, 2017, districts must no longer use *Whose IDEA is This?*



The Department has translated the newly published guide into several languages including Albanian, Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Russian, Spanish, Somali, Ukrainian, and Urdu. ODE's Center for Sensory Disabilities can be contacted to provide a version in Braille, large print, or on a compact disc. Check out [education.ohio.gov](http://education.ohio.gov) to read or download the guide in its entirety. It is a much shorter and easier guide to navigate. Questions? You can call your Parent Mentor at 419-354-9010.

# Locker Organization Tips from Understood.org

1. Practice how to open a combination lock.
2. Help your child schedule locker visits. Help your child figure out how long it takes to get from class to class. Use a stopwatch. Look over breaks in his schedule and map the best times for locker visits.
3. Use color-coding. Color code each class-book covers, notebooks, and folders.
4. With each locker visit, use the three T's. Have your child's schedule inside of the locker. Encourage your child to touch the subject name, think about what you need for that class, and take it with you.

5. Make room for extra supplies. You may want a magnetic cup for the locker door with extra pens and pencils. (or a zipper pouch.) Talk about other items you may need like tissues, glue sticks, deodorant.

6. Schedule regular locker maintenance. Help your child make and follow a plan to faithfully clean out the locker once a week on the same day. Take home extra/old papers and replenish supplies. Schedule a more thorough clean-out several times a year like the end of each marking period.

Find more tips about organization, executive functioning, ADHD, Autism, Dyslexia, and much more at [understood.org](http://understood.org).

## Backpack Checklist Luggage Tags

Use our sample lists for small and large tags, or create your own. Just slip your list into the tag and attach it to your child's backpack.

For a small (business card-sized) luggage tag (2" x 3½"):

To School	To Home
<i>Do I have:</i>	<i>Do I have:</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Completed homework?	<input type="checkbox"/> Homework assignments?
<input type="checkbox"/> Lunch/lunch money?	<input type="checkbox"/> Lunch box?
<input type="checkbox"/> Binder/notebooks?	<input type="checkbox"/> Binder/notebooks?
<input type="checkbox"/> Books?	<input type="checkbox"/> Books?
<input type="checkbox"/> Gym clothes?	<input type="checkbox"/> Dirty gym clothes?
<input type="checkbox"/> Daily planner?	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily planner signed?
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Graded work/teacher's notes?
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____

To School	To Home
<i>Do I have:</i>	<i>Do I have:</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
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**Understood**



**“The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today.” — Franklin D. Roosevelt**