



Autism Newsletter

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September 2012

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THE ELIJA SCHOOL OFFERS FIVE BACK TO SCHOOL TIPS FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH AUTISM & SPECIAL NEEDS

A list of five tips for making sure the school year starts on the right foot!

Happy September! Though there are still plenty of days left for beach and pool fun, now is the time to start thinking about crayons, pencils, books and the upcoming school year. Preparing children for the first day back to school is a difficult task for most parents - filled with all sorts of emotions and challenges. But for parents of children with autism, the start of a new school year can be especially worrisome. That's why Debora Harris-Thivierge, Director & Founder of Long Island's The ELIJA School for Children with Autism, has compiled a list of 5 tips for parents preparing their children with autism and special needs for their first day back to the books.

SERVICES

Long Island's ELIJA School Offers An Intensive ABA Program

Learn about ELIJA: An educational
treatment and outreach center for
children with Autism: www.ELIJA.org



ELIJA

Championing Hope. One Child at a Time.
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1. **My Child's Quick Tips**

Create a photo welcome package for your child's new teachers. Write down what he/she likes and doesn't like. A short story or quick tips about your child and their learning history would be great and much appreciated by all! Realize that teachers don't have a lot of time to read everything about kids before the first day of school so be proactive.

2. **Meet the Teachers**

Prior to the first day of school, setup a time (if possible) for you and your child to meet all the new teachers and assistants who will be working with your child. This gives him/her an opportunity to start making a positive connection and is great for parents and caregivers too!

3. **Visit School Before the First Day**

Visit the school with your child a few days before the first day back and try to make arrangements to meet with the CSE director or the school consultant. Take your child around the playground area and through the halls to get them acclimated. This is especially helpful if your child is transitioning to a new building and may have some anxiety or fear about the transition.

4. **Mark Your Calendar**

Make time to put all of the important dates for school events and activities on your calendar so that you don't have last minute surprises. Children with autism spectrum disorders and special needs often have packed schedules with therapy sessions, social skills activities and related services. Organizing your schedule in advance helps reduce stress for you and your child.

5. **Deep Breath**

Take a deep breath and a positive attitude. If you see any problems with your child's progress address them immediately and don't wait! Before you know it the year will be over. If you see your child making progress, reinforce the teachers and staff - they need praise too!

To read more about ELIJA please visit www.ELIJA.org, or visit Facebook.com/TheELIJASchool and @ELIJASchool

About The ELIJA School

The ELIJA School is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting children with Autism, their families and the Autism community at large with science-based treatments utilizing the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA). Today 1 in 91 children are diagnosed with Autism making it more common than pediatric cancer, diabetes and AIDS combined. The school opened its doors in order to improve the quality of education for children with Autism from the Long Island and New York City areas who cannot be served in their available public school settings. The ELIJA School also provides extensive training programs, advocacy and outreach services for professionals, individuals, their families, teachers and caregivers.

The ELIJA School currently has academic openings and is accepting applications. Please visit www.ELIJA.com to download an application.