

Mike Hodde

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2010 9:13 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Senate Committee Meeting

Mike thank you for offering to read a statement from me to the committee. Here ya go...feel free to edit it as you see fit to fit the time frame available.

Kat

Dear Senate Education Committee:

As a veteran teacher of 10+ years in 2 VERY diverse states AND the parent of a 14 year old middle school student with Asperger's Syndrome I am continually amazed at the lack of services for our children. Social skills training is a VERY LARGE part of our kids educational AND growth process. Children with Asperger's syndrome, and many other Autism Spectrum disorders, MUST be directly taught the simple interactions between peers and adults that most of us learn by witnessing others preform such tasks.

Social skills training should be started MUCH, MUCH earlier in a child's educational journey. Early intervention is a LARGE piece that is missing from the Texas Educational System. My son was identified and educational training began at age 3 because the state we lived in had provisions for intervention programs and the programs were staffed with well trained knowledgeable professionals. Here he would not have been identified until kindergarten (age 4) losing 12 very important months of learning .

As a child progresses thru the Texas Educational System there are less and less services that are available to our children. The only reason my son receives the few services that he does is a direct result of my Special Education background and training. Each year there are more and more obstacles hindering growth, educationally and socially. In middle and high school the emphasis is more on isolated academics and TAKS or other high stakes testing and their impact on the schools state ranking than on the creation and molding of tomorrows leaders.

I personally feel the Texas Education system has become "lost in the fog." If the goal is to truly educate our children than we MUST quit looking at education in isolation and change our focus to creating well rounded PRODUCTIVE citizens for our tomorrow depends on it.

Thank you for your time.

Kat Foy
Parent, Business Owner, Educator and Director
Whole Child Learning Company

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2:30
1:30