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Home-Schooling Your Autistic Child

By Rachel Evans

If you have an autistic child, then you are aware of the many challenges you face raising your child.

With the behavioral problems that many autistic children suffer from, raising an autistic child may feel like two full-time jobs at times. Educating an autistic child is also a difficult task that must be fully thought out.

While public schools are funded to handle children with special needs, these locations are not always the best arenas for autistic children. One of the reasons that home-schooling your autistic child is a good idea is because special education programs may lump autistic children in with others who have maladaptive behavioral problems.

Remember, autistic children have behavioral problems due to their developmental inability to properly function normally in social situations. If they are placed in with others who have emotional problems they may regress instead of progress. However, if home-schooled, parents can control the social influences that are likely to either help or hinder the progress of their child. They can keep them away from insensitive teachers, bullies, and have greater control of their education.

Due to their obvious differences, many autistic children are treated with cruelty. This horrible fact of life can undo much of the progress that your child may have already made. Most autistic children function best when routines are set. Home-schooling is the best way to ensure these routines are established and followed.

In addition, home-schooling is a good choice because many autistic children are sensitive to sound. If they are in a classroom with a bunch of other children making noise, it can be difficult for them to focus. The home-schooling setting is normally more quiet and conducive to learning, besides, it offers autistic children a typically 1:1 teacher to student ratio. Plus, if you're following a GFCF diet it's much easier to implement this at home and you can be sure that your child is only eating what you're giving them. Furthermore, research has demonstrated that autistic children who are home-schooled score better on problem behavior assessments.

Home–Schooling Your Autistic Child

In order to make the most out of your child's home–school experience, it may be a good idea to keep a journal. Write down anything about your child's behavior and performance that is important. For instance, you can keep track of when your child is most productive, when he or she learns best, and what are the potential distractions. Remember you'll need to adapt your teaching style to suit their learning ability. Trying to make them learn `your way' will just lead to a lack of progress and frustration all round.

As a parent and a teacher it is important for you to read up on recent literature involving the education of autistic children. There are many resources that provide information on teaching strategies, learning methods, and the different types of intelligence. Knowing this information will enable you to tailor a home–school program that will meet your child's needs. The beauty about home–schooling is that if one approach doesn't work you can adapt your style until you find an approach that does work.

Home–schooling is fast becoming a common educational choice for parents of autistic children. The research involved clearly outlines the benefits of home–schooling. However, you must ensure that you

will have the time and the dedication to follow through with home–schooling. Simply keeping your child at home is not going to do any good if learning is not occurring. It is important that you address academic, behavioral, and social needs.

Rachel Evans has an interest in Autism. For further information on Autism please visit

Potty Training

By Rachel Evans

According to Freudian psychology, potty training is an extremely important stage of child development. While not everything Freud wrote about is accepted as truth, this stage of development is widely understood as an important milestone in personal growth. The difficulty with potty training with an autistic child can be a singular challenge. If an autistic child is ever to gain a semblance of independence, it is necessary that potty training be carried out correctly.

There are techniques for potty training a normally developing child. These practices are fairly universal, but for the most part, they do not apply to the autistic child. Toilet training an autistic child requires some adjustment to basic strategies.

When potty training a normally developing child it is common for parents to use prizes and rewards to reinforce the behavior being taught. However, when it comes to autistic children, they do not usually react in the same way to positive reinforcement.

Sometimes they may acknowledge it and other times it can be totally ignored. Autism is a disorder in which social interactions are impaired. Some autistic children may even avoid close relationships with their own parents, preferring to be alone or detached. This must be taken into consideration when drawing up a plan for potty training.

Furthermore, autistic children may not have an understanding of why it is important to relieve themselves in the toilet. This breakdown in communication is extremely important to address.

Many autistic children do not speak. This creates another problem in terms of potty training. However, one of the most difficult challenges seems to be breaking autistic children out of rigidly adhered to routines. Many autistic children become attached to routines and find them difficult to break out of. An autistic child switching from diapers to underwear might sense this as a threatening change. The noise of the toilet flushing could also bother them.

If you've looked into methods of how autistic children learn then you are aware that most are extreme visual learners. Instead of using words to communicate the importance of toilet training to autistic toddlers, it is best to utilize visuals. The rate of success in toilet training using visual cues over verbal ones in toddlers with autism has been well documented. In fact, there is an entire industry of products related to helping teach autistic toddlers how to be properly potty trained.

In terms of the visuals that can be employed, the most common type is a series of pictures, similar to a comic book that relates the behavior that is going to be taught. These cards demonstrate the entire process of using the toilet and include information on what happens after the toilet process is finished. If you're comfortable with the idea, let your child see you use the toilet. This visual cue will reinforce what you are telling them.

One of the other difficulties of potty training an autistic child is the fact that many of them do not sense the need to use the bathroom and are prone to having accidents. One of the ways this can be addressed is through the use of a timer. Timing out when the child should go to the bathroom can turn the urge to go into a routine.

As mentioned earlier, autistic children are often fiercely opposed to change. When beginning potty training do not expect to succeed all at once. The process should be taken slow and steady, completely at the pace of your child.

Although autism is a disorder that impairs the ability to communicate in a social manner it is possible for many autistic children to learn how to function independently. Potty training is one of the most important steps that will influence the life of an autistic child. If you want further information on potty training autistic children, there are plenty of resources and experts that can lead you in the right direction.

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<http://www.essential–guide–to–autism.com/autism.html>

or

<http://www.essential–guide–to–autism.com/blog/2006/08/18/potty–training/>

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