

THE ROLE OF PARENTS IN THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER

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Abstract

This article explores the important role of parents in the education and upbringing of children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). This emphasizes the importance of parental involvement in ensuring effective education and social integration for children. Research highlights the need for parents to work closely with teachers and therapists to create individualized education plans. In addition, the article discusses strategies for fostering communication, managing behavior problems, and creating a supportive home environment to help children develop. Research suggests that conscious and active parental involvement significantly increases a child's ability to cope with ASD.

Keywords: Autism spectrum disorder, parental involvement, special education, child development, behavior management, individual education plan, social integration, communication strategies, supportive environment.

Introduction

In recent years, the need for active parental involvement in the diagnostic and therapeutic process of children with different developmental disorders has been emphasized as it is now considered an important factor in the long-term outcome of major difficulties. Autistic Spectrum Disorder is a severe, widespread disturbance of a person's development that accompanies the person throughout his or her life, affecting one's perception, thinking and behavior and is characterized by a) significant difficulties in developing social and communication skills and mutual interactions. the person with those around him, and (b) limited and repeated stereotypical interests and behaviors [5]. It should be emphasized that children with ASD are highly heterogeneous about concerning social disorder. Other children have a lack of motivation for interaction, which in some cases avoids interaction, that is, they avoid touch and eye contact, while others actively seek interaction but either lack empathy or interact interactively. People with ASD also have a disadvantage in their emotional organization, resulting in the difficulty of communicating with those around them, with the consequences of socialization difficulties and their family [8].

The education of children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) presents unique challenges and opportunities, making the role of parents particularly significant. Parents are not only their children's first teachers but also their primary advocates, supporters, and guides throughout the educational journey. As children with ASD often face difficulties in communication, social interaction, and behavior, the involvement of parents becomes crucial in navigating these



challenges. Research has shown that when parents actively engage in their child's education, it leads to better academic outcomes and improved social skills. This partnership between parents and educators fosters an environment where children can thrive, enabling them to reach their full potential. Understanding the multifaceted role of parents in this context is essential for developing effective educational strategies and ensuring that children with ASD receive the support they need.

DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

The education of children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) is a collaborative effort that relies heavily on the involvement of parents. As the primary caregivers, parents play a crucial role in advocating for their children's needs, supporting their learning, and facilitating their social development. This article explores the various dimensions of parental involvement in the education of children with ASD and highlights the importance of this partnership in fostering positive outcomes. In recent years, widespread developmental disorders have attracted the interest of both parents and health and education professionals and constitute areas of great research, clinical and social interest [9]. Research interest also focuses on parents and the family in the field of autism as well as on the effectiveness of the early intervention and parent education. It is generally accepted that the family is a key factor in physical and mental development and that the child-family relationship is two-way as parents influence the child, which in turn influences the parents [10]. Parents are also "experts" in their child, they know it better than anyone and can provide any information that will be valuable in their child's education and therapeutic approach. The views held over many years about parents' responsibility for their behavior and the upbringing of their child in the emergence of autism today are unacceptable. Today, the emergence of autism is considered to be the result of organic causes and the contribution of parents in coping with the difficulties of the crucial disorder [11]. Parents are considered cotherapists [12], can provide necessary information about the child's daily life, development and course, participate actively in treatment, support the therapeutic-educational process, and play a leading role in claiming the rights of their child, 115 in educating and supporting other parents in coping with the difficulties and negative emotions resulting from having a person with autism. However, one factor that can have a positive impact on the role of parents in making use of their potential is quality cooperation with specialized health and education professionals specializing in the field to ensure the development and quality of life of their child. [4]. According to a statement from the Department of Education and Science in Great Britain [13], "effectively addressing the needs of people with developmental disorders depends on the full involvement of parents. The relationship between them and health and education professionals is crucial to the child's development. Parents need information and clear guidance to support the efforts of professionals, while it is impossible for professionals to meet the needs without valuable knowledge of the parents about their child".

Parents play an integral role in the educational programs of their children, particularly for those with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). Their involvement can significantly affect the educational experience and outcomes for these children. This article explores the various ways



parents contribute to their child's educational journey, emphasizing advocacy, communication, support, and collaboration with educators. [8]

Advocacy and Rights

Parents are essential advocates for their children's educational rights. Understanding legal protections, such as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), is crucial. Parents must ensure their children receive appropriate services tailored to their unique needs. This includes participating in the development of Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), where they can voice their concerns and preferences, ensuring that educational goals align with their child's abilities and interests. [6]

Communication with Educators

Effective communication between parents and educators is vital for the success of educational programs. Parents can provide valuable insights into their child's learning style, strengths, and challenges. Regular communication—whether through meetings, emails, or phone calls—helps maintain a collaborative relationship, allowing teachers to adjust their strategies based on parental feedback. This partnership fosters a more supportive learning environment. [4]

Support and Reinforcement

Parents are key players in reinforcing learning at home. By engaging in educational activities, such as reading together or practicing skills learned in school, parents help solidify their child's understanding. Establishing consistent routines at home can also create a predictable environment, which is beneficial for children with ASD. This structure helps children feel secure and focused, enhancing their learning.

Emotional and Social Support

Emotional support is crucial for children with ASD, who may struggle with social interactions and emotional regulation. Parents can teach coping strategies, helping their children navigate challenges in social settings and manage anxiety. Encouraging social skills through playdates or group activities can also foster peer relationships, enhancing their social development. [2]

Collaboration in Educational Planning

Collaboration between parents and educators is essential for effective educational planning. Parents should be actively involved in IEP meetings, sharing their perspectives and advocating for necessary accommodations. By working together, parents and teachers can develop strategies that cater to the child's individual learning needs, ensuring a more personalized educational experience.

Continuous Learning and Development

Parents should seek ongoing education regarding ASD and effective teaching strategies. Attending workshops, reading literature, and connecting with support networks can empower parents to make informed decisions about their child's education. Staying informed about new



developments in autism education can lead to the implementation of best practices at home and in the classroom. [10]

CONCLUSIONS

The role of parents in the education of children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) is crucial for fostering positive educational outcomes and overall development. Parents serve as advocates, ensuring that their children receive the necessary support and resources in educational settings. Their active involvement in the creation and implementation of Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) allows them to tailor learning experiences to meet their child's unique needs.

Effective communication between parents and educators creates a collaborative environment that enhances the educational experience. By sharing insights about their child's strengths, challenges, and interests, parents help teachers develop strategies that promote engagement and success.

Moreover, parents provide essential emotional and social support, teaching coping mechanisms and encouraging social interactions that are vital for their child's growth. Reinforcing learning at home and establishing consistent routines further contribute to a structured and supportive environment that benefits children with ASD. In addition, parents should remain informed and engaged in the latest research and best practices related to autism education. By connecting with other families and professionals, they can share experiences and strategies that enhance their effectiveness as advocates and supporters.

Ultimately, the partnership between parents and educators is foundational to the educational journey of children with ASD. By working together, they can create an inclusive and nurturing environment that empowers children to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally, paving the way for a successful future.

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