

NATURAL SUPPORTS

KENT CAN
TRANSITION SUB COMMITTEE
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WHAT ARE NATURAL SUPPORTS?

Natural supports for people with disabilities involve using peer mentors, student leaders, co-workers, and other environmental supports that are naturally a part of the classroom, work environment, or community, to facilitate skill acquisition and generalization.

- Caledonia Daily Grind



WHY ARE NATURAL SUPPORTS IMPORTANT?

The use of natural supports is based on the philosophy that utilizing people or processes which are already a part of the environment, results in more meaningful and effective skill development and acquisition.

Think Universal Design and Universal Design for Learning.

- Curb cutout
- Closed caption




SUBCOMMITTEE POLL

The Transition Subcommittee sent out a poll to teachers of student with ASD and with other disabilities in a secondary setting.

Respondents were asked if they worked with students with ASD and if they worked with students with other disabilities.

Respondents were also asked what setting they most frequently worked with students with ASD and also with students with other disabilities.

Respondents were asked to list their top 5 natural supports provided to students with ASD and to students with other disabilities.



TOP 5 NATURAL SUPPORTS USED AROUND KENT ISD

14 out of 56 respondents

Environment natural supports were used in

- Self contained classroom
- Resource room
- Work based learning site
- Community



#1

Visual Supports

- 65% utilize visual supports and/or visual schedules to facilitate independence in the classroom, work based learning site, or out in the community



#2

Peer Support or Peer Mentor

- 65% said that peer supports, peer mentors, job coaches were used to facilitate skill development at work based learning sites, out in the community, and in self contained classrooms.



#3

Sensory Diet

29% said they utilized a sensory diet to help develop independence and self determination skills in their self contained classroom

Sensory Diet vs. Sensory Support



#4

Cell Phone Alarms

21% reported they utilized cell phone alarms to teach independence while in the classroom, work based learning site, and community.



#5


Social Stories/Scripting

14% reported that social stories and scripting was utilized with students in the classroom before going out into the community or work based learning site.

Developed Support vs. Natural Support?



OTHER NATURAL SUPPORTS USED

- Work Experiences or job shadowing
 - Puzzle Partners referral
 - Immediate feedback
 - Verbal and nonverbal cues
 - Quality questioning teaching phrases
 - Emailing job sites with questions and concerns immediately after shift
 - Arranging the environment
 - Video taping/audio taping
 - Daily communication with family
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NATURAL SUPPORTS USED WITH STUDENTS WITH OTHER DISABILITIES

Developing Relationship Awareness

Open Communication with staff

Modeling

Crisis Management

