

Autism Community Connection

Autismcc Yahoo Group Responds!

Our group is comprised of parents, educators and professionals in the autism community. We welcome parents to ask questions so that together we may share our wealth of collected knowledge and insight. www.autismcommunityconnection.com - <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/autismcc/>

Subject: Feeding Therapy

Susan has a son in Early Intervention and is looking for a therapy facility that offers feeding therapy. She had a bad experience with an occupational therapist that wanted her to hold her son down while she did mouth exercises. This was traumatic for both child and parent. She is hoping to find someone with knowledge of treating children with autism. Some of our Yahoo group members responded below:

Dawn knew that Easter Seals in Villa Park has a feeding therapy program.

Mary Kay said that Communication Clubhouse in Downers Grove has a picky eaters group and also works on feeding issues. www.communicationclubhouse.com She also suggested having a speech therapist work on feeding rather than the occupational therapist.

Katie encouraged parents to trust their own motherly instinct if something doesn't seem right. "There are many caring, great therapists out there. Just figure out what your child needs most and don't settle for anything less than someone who can give just what he or she needs." Katie interviews her therapists first before they see her son and makes sure to observe them in therapy.

Teri suggested that the parent contact her Early Intervention coordinator for suggestions. She gave a link for the State of Illinois' rules for the EI program <http://tinyurl.com/lgzmk> that also has a list of enrolled providers. She said if a provider is not available, the rules allow you to obtain a provider that is not enrolled in the EI program. In other words, "your child doesn't have to wait for services that are needed."

Section 500.85 Individualized Family Service Plan Implementation

d) The Illinois Early Intervention Services System is not responsible for funding early intervention services the parent seeks from providers not enrolled with the system unless an enrolled provider cannot be made available to the family. Services out the system in such situations must be pre-approved by the Department.