

Southwest Autism Research and Resource Center (SARRC)

Phoenix, AZ

www.autismcenter.org

Educational Consulting

PROJECT OBJECTIVE:

The Educational Consulting Program was developed to support students in inclusive education programs and/or transitioning students from special education to general education placements. The program was geared toward elementary, middle and high school classrooms, and includes students, educators, therapists and parents with the intent to build the capacity for schools and districts to independently support the social, academic and behavioral needs of children with ASDs in inclusive settings.

PROJECT STEPS:

The following activities occurred during the course of the project:

- Consultation services were provided for 476 educators throughout 13 Arizona school districts, impacting 91 children with ASDs in 52 schools in those districts. Services were also provided to 22 school professionals at the Arkansas Department of Education. This equated to 3,787 individual hours of education and consulting services during the funding year.
- School district consultation services were also provided through 460 phone consultations and 630 email consultations.
- Training was provided to 647 education professionals, equating to more than 22,000 individual hours of training.
- The Playground Club was established, which supports social interaction skills and promotes health relationships between typical peers and students with ASDs during recess.

The Educational Consulting Process:

1. Announcements/letters sent to school districts throughout Arizona explaining the availability of the educational consultation program.
2. Schools begin contacting SARRC.
3. Appointments are made to meet with school staff to further discuss the program and evaluate the needs of the school and its students.
4. Meetings are arranged between SARRC and the school's special education director, special education teachers, school principal and possibly the support staff (paraprofessionals, school therapists, school psychologists, etc.) that have an interest in school-based services.
5. Services are outlined and are tailored to the specific needs of the student/s and the school. Consultation services may include any of the following:
 - a. Educational evaluations.
 - b. Functional behavior assessments.
 - c. Consultation for inclusion.
 - d. Consultation for self-contained classrooms.
 - e. School training.
6. Agreements are made between SARRC and the school.
7. Services are provided per the agreement.

8. Reports are developed based upon the services provided; reviewed by the school; and arrangements are made for further discussion, if necessary.
9. Follow up is provided as requested.

OUTCOMES:

Information on the Educational Consulting program has been disseminated through articles in SARRC's Outreach magazine, which is distributed to more than 20,000 local families, donors and community leaders.