



## Evidence -Based consulting

From the desk of the  
Tumbleweed consultant

Hello all,

Hopefully you all have returned from spring break minus any injuries and semi-rested!

If you have not started thinking about the transitions your students will be facing at the start of next year, now is the time! Whether it is transition to a new school or simply another classroom, success depends on communication between the sending and receiving staff.

Here are a few tips to keep in mind

- Arrange for the student to have a tour of the new surroundings before next school year starts. It may be best to schedule the first tour when the school is empty of other students. Help them locate their new classrooms, restrooms, cafeteria and any other space in the school they may frequent. Some students may benefit from a visual map of a new school. This could simply mean drawing lines and Xs on a paper or it could include pictures.
- Make sure behavior expectations and procedures are provided in a written or picture format (depending on the student) prior to the school year. This might include: expected hallway behavior, lunch room procedures, procedures for riding the bus, what happens when we dress out for gym class etc. This will ease anxiety for students and parents alike.
- Consider videoing a walkthrough of the new school. An informal video can be made specific to the needs of that student. You may also want to enlist the help of audio-visually inclined high school students in creating a more general "welcome to high school" video tour. This could be used with many incoming students!
- Put together a "New School" social narrative that includes pictures of staff and new surroundings.
- Help the student write down information that he might want his next teacher to know about him.  
For example:
  - What are his/her interests?
  - What is the student good at?
  - What things help them feel comfortable at school?
  - What part of school is their most and least favorite?
- Plan on a meeting between the sending and receiving staff. Share strategies, visual supports, daily schedules, and any information not gained by simply reading an IEP or IFSP.

The CAPS and Ziggurat models are great systems for passing on information to receiving teachers. This month's article is, *The CAPS and Ziggurat Models: Planning a Comprehensive Program for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders Using Evidence Based Practices found at* <http://www.texasautism.com/WorkshopFiles/AdvocateZigguratCAPS.pdf> We also have the CAPS and Ziggurat books available for check out in our lending library at [kansasd.com](http://kansasd.com).

Happy reading and safe travels!

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