



Evidence Based Consulting

From the desk of the Tumbleweed Consultant

You may have noticed that our name has changed from KISN to <u>TASN Autism</u> and <u>Tertiary Behavior Supports</u>. We are the same group with one terrific addition. Linda Wilkerson has joined our team to add an important focus on tertiary behavior supports. You can still find us at http://kansasasd.com/.

Hello Everyone!

I hope your school year is off to a fantastic start. This is a great time of year for traveling around Kansas, however, frequent journeys on dimly lit roads, have taught me to remain vigilant. Recently, I stopped in plenty of time, to watch a deer run through a field, cross a ditch and pass several feet in front of me. At the same time, her fawn, lagging behind her, ran head first into the side of my vehicle. I am not sure how I could have better prepared for being broadsided by a fawn. Stopping seemed like the best strategy but in this case, it didn't work. I thought of how similar this dilemma was to those we face daily with our students (minus the deer, of course). A strategy that works well for one student is a disaster for another. The only thing we can expect is that at some point, we will try a seemingly safe idea, only to find out it results in something totally unexpected. The most effective teachers that I have known are not the ones that know all the answers. Effective teachers learn to think on their feet when their answers aren't correct. Thinking on your feet requires an ability to pull from the tool box in your mind, full of trial, error and the wisdom of others who have crashed and burned before you. Fortunately there are plenty of us "crash and burners" out there to share ideas.

At the end of the day, give yourself permission to "not have all the answers". <u>Never</u> give yourself permission to stop searching for the answers.

This month's featured article is: <u>Creating Visuals on the Fly for Unpredictable Activities</u> by Judy Endow, MSW. Judy is an adult with autism who offers a valuable and unique perspective in all of her publications. You can read Judy's article by going to http://specialism.com/creating-visuals-on-the-fly-for-unpredictable-activities/.

Happy reading and safe travels!
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