Twenty Ideas for Better Communication with Professionals

1. Stop saying, “I’m just a parent”.

2. When calling the school, ask people to identify themselves when giving you information.

3. Never send verbal messages by your child to the teacher or other school officials.

4. Being all allowed to take a test alone (vs. with the class)

5. Not having to copy homework off the board (get the assignments from the teacher)

6. Getting a syllabus for the week

7. Help a child feel that they belong and contribute to the class

8. Modify assignments to meet individual student need

9. Divide longer assignments/projects into shorter ones

10. Schedule complex activities in the morning when the student has more energy

11. Call students by name frequently

12. Highlight or underline important directions

13. Provide opportunities for the student to help others

14. Be mindful that some students are particularly sensitive to noise, sound, light, etc., and make the necessary accommodations (e.g., establish a quiet area to work or eat, seat student away from distracting sounds, put student with other children he/she trust and likes)

15. Allow the student choices when possible

16. Refocus the student to task and reinforce with praise (redirect troublesome behavior – redirect, refocus, reinforce, praise)

17. Monitor frequently the student’s progress (identify areas where the student gets “stuck” and then develop a method of handling such points in the future)

18. Remember that students learn in different ways and that to use a multisensory approach (e.g., oral, visual, tactile, kinesics)

19. Vary methods for assessing knowledge (e.g., oral tests, short quizzes, new reports, interviews, group projects, etc.)

20. Involve students by utilizing role-playing activities,