

July 16, 2010

Hello!

I hope that you all have had a great start to summer, and are looking forward to Independence Day! Independence is a value important to our country and in the development of children with ASD as well. The goal for July is to provide parents with resources to **foster their child's independence**.

Fostering independence is important in many aspects of a child's life. Not only is it important for a child to learn life skills like dressing and laundry, but also to advocate for their rights. No matter what a child's age, it's never too early to think about long-term planning issues like financial matters and guardianship.

Included in this packet, you will find tip sheets on promoting your child's independence, advocating for your child in the school and community, and some ideas about planning for their future. Also included is the Autism Society of America's 10 Step Process for Future Planning. You will also find a social narrative on fireworks to aid those who have a tough time with the event!

I want to thank everyone who completed last month's survey about the materials you received. All of your feedback continues to help make the program better.

Please let me know if there are any ways that the KATC can help you or members of your support group. You can contact me at my email at [rich.mancil@louisville.edu](mailto:rich.mancil@louisville.edu) or by phone at 502-852-2629 (or the main line at 502-852-4631).

Rich Mancil