

Topic: Autism

General Purpose: To inform

Specific Purpose: To inform my audience about autism

Autism

Introduction:

I. Attention Getter

Susan gave birth to a beautiful healthy baby boy. She began to have concerns when her son was a year. Susan's son wouldn't respond to his name and didn't like to be held. Her concern grew more when at 18 months her son still didn't respond to his name, didn't play pretend, and wouldn't make eye contact. Susan couldn't shake the feeling something was terribly wrong. Over the course of the next few months Susan's fears began to turn to panic. When the diagnosis finally came in, the doctor said, Susan, your son has autism (ppt slide with word autism opens when I say autism). An average of 1 in 110 children in the United States has an autism spectrum disorder, according to the CDC website last updated on March 25, 2011. Diagnoses of ASD are on a steep incline.

II. Audience Relevancy Statement

Most of us in this room have or will have an autistic child, have children who know an autistic or have a family member with autism.

III. Thesis Statement/Central Idea

As diagnoses of autism are becoming more common, it is important we be more aware of what autism entails.

Preview Statement:

Today I will explain what autism is, therapies used to help autistic children and some local organizations for autism.

Body:

I. First I will explain autism

- A. According to kidshealth.org last accessed on April 26, 2011, autism (also known as autism spectrum disorder) refers to a group of developmental conditions that involve delayed or impaired communication and social skills, behaviors, and cognitive (learning) skills.
- B. ASDs are "spectrum disorders." That means ASDs affect each person in different ways, and can range from very mild to severe. People with ASDs share some similar symptoms, such as problems with social interaction. But there are differences in when the symptoms start, how severe they are, and the exact nature of the symptoms.
- C. There are three different types of ASDs
 1. Asperger Syndrome
People with Asperger syndrome usually have some milder symptoms of autistic disorder. They might have social challenges and unusual behaviors and interests. However, they typically do not have problems with language or intellectual disability.
 2. Pervasive Developmental Disorder – Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS; also called "atypical autism")
People who meet some of the criteria for autistic disorder or Asperger syndrome, but not all, may be diagnosed with PDD-NOS. People with PDD-NOS usually have fewer and milder symptoms than those with autistic disorder. The symptoms might cause only social and communication challenges.
 3. Autistic Disorder (also called "classic" autism).
This is what most people think of when hearing the word "autism." People with autistic disorder usually have significant language delays, social and communication challenges, and unusual behaviors and interests. Many people with autistic disorder also have intellectual disability.

Transition to point II: Now that I have explained what autism is, let's discuss therapies used to help these children's development.

II. There are four therapies available to help improve an autistic child's development.

- A. Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) encourages positive behaviors and discourages negative behaviors in order to improve a variety of skills. The child's progress is tracked and measured.
- B. Occupational therapy teaches skills that help the person live as independently as possible.

Skills might include dressing, eating, bathing, and relating to people.

C. Sensory integration therapy helps the person deal with sensory information, like sights, sounds and smells. Sensory integration therapy could help a child who is bothered by certain sounds or does not like to be touched.

D. Speech therapy helps to improve the person's communication skills. Some people are able to learn verbal communication skills. For others, using gestures or picture boards is more realistic.

Transition to point III: So now that we have a better understanding of autism and the therapies used, I am going to tell you about a few organizations for autism.

III. There are three organizations here in the coastal bend I want to tell you about who help autistic children and there families.

- A. As written in an article published by the Corpus Christi Caller Times on February 8, 2009, there is a behavioral consulting service whose focus is working with autistic children and adults up to age 21 on aiding their development and analyzing their disabilities called the Autistic Counseling Services.
- B. Hannah's Hope (previously a learning center) is another community resource to support existing entities in our community that address the needs of autistic children and support the families affected by autism, as stated on their website last accessed on April 26, 2011.
- C. According to the Coastal Bend Autism Advocacy, Inc's website, last accessed on April 26, 2011, they were formed in part, to provide an avenue for parents and educators of autistic children to find information about services and available resources to the children and young adults living in the coastal bend who are on the autistic spectrum.
 1. CBAA's goals are to support the needs of children, families and educators by raising awareness of autism and fundraising to bring additional services and materials needed to help aid the autistic child in reaching his/her potential.
 2. CBAA's mission is to help children, families and educators with autistic children.
 3. CBAA focuses on:
 - a. Education
 - b. Health Care
 - c. Socialization
 - d. Community Awareness
 - e. Employment
 - f. Other disabled in our community

Conclusion:

I. Summary Statement

Today we have learned what autism is, some of the therapies used to help autistic children and three resources for autistic children and their families.

II. Message Reinforcement

Knowledge is the most powerful weapon we have. Now that we are more informed about autism, we will be more equipped to interact with autistic children when the situation arises.

III. Closure of Message

Although there is no cure for autism, knowledge, therapy and resources can help autistic children develop the skills needed to achieve their best potential.

Works Cited

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