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SPED 289

Reflection 2

Throughout learning about families and children with disabilities one thing I have realized is that the child's support system is crucial. I think that who the child is surrounded by and their support system is very important. Family is number one. Personally, I think that the family and child's legal guardians are most responsible for the child regardless, but especially when you have a child that has a disability. A disability can be something small like a learning disability or can be extreme and who the child feels they have support from is the most important thing.

Parents showing too much attention to a child with a learning disability vs a child with autism is very different. For example, if your child found out they have a learning disability you wouldn't want to make them feel like they are not the same as any other child. You would want to reach out to the child's teachers and school resources to make sure they get the attention they need without feeling like someone that needs extra attention all the time. If a child was to have autism, the circumstances and how you might deal with the child are different. Though having autism is a bigger disability than someone who just might need extra help or time on an assignment, how you deal with the situation and the resources you contact will probably be alike in some areas. Any parent that has a child with a disability should show empathy towards the child and want them to have the resources they need to be their best self.

At school, teachers should make an effort to connect with the family and keep them in the loop as to how their child is doing in school. Teachers should feel like they are advocating

for the child and make the child feel like they are special and like anyone else. Ways that teachers or peers at school could do this is by having lunch with them, spending time with them outside of the classroom, and letting them know that you are their friend. I think that children that have disabilities might feel at some points that they aren't the same as everyone else and feel not included. That is the last way that a child with a disability should feel. They should feel like they can go to anyone whether it's family or someone at school and know they will be supported. I think children that feel like they are supported will succeed more than children who don't feel supported.

So at the end of the day, how successful a child is, is contributed a lot based on who they are surrounded by. It is really important for families and others to let the child know that they will be successful and have a bright future.

In the PowerPoint in class, we discussed how important it is for teachers to stay in touch with families and let their children know how they are performing. We talked about different methods you can take like keeping a folder for a child or making phone calls home to talk to the child's guardian. If the parents feel supported by the teachers this will help the child as well. I also feel that people that personally know someone with a disability can be advocates for people with disabilities. If you know someone personally or around someone with a disability, you can put yourself in their shoes and want to help them, rather than someone who might have never really been around someone with a disability. Parents, grandparents, teachers, and anyone else the child is surrounded by play a big role in contributing support. The more supported a person with a disability feels, the more successful they will be. I personally have grown up in a school where children with disabilities have been in the same classrooms as me. I have seen them struggle and need extra help. It is easy for me to put myself in their shoes and show them empathy, but for someone who hasn't been around that before it might be harder to show empathy and compassion for them.

