

## 4 Parenting Tips: How to Overcome Blame, From Special Education Personnel

Are you the parent of a child with autism that has been blamed for your child's behavioral difficulties? Have you been told by special education personnel that your child's learning disability, is your fault? This article will discuss a study of school psychologists about blame for children's learning difficulties. And also, give you tips, on how to overcome the blame, placed by some disability educators.

Several years ago, I heard about a study where school psychologists were asked who they blamed, when a child had learning difficulties. The basic outcome of the study showed that 100% of the psychologists that were surveyed, placed the blame on the child or the parents. Not one school psychologist blamed the school district, teacher, inappropriate curriculum, lack of resources, or inadequate instruction, for children's learning difficulties. Parents must overcome this blame, so that they can advocate for an appropriate education, for their child.

Tip 1: If a school person tells you that your child's behavior, is because of something that is going on at home, stand up to them. Tell the person that you do not believe that this is true. If your child has autism, they may have a lot of behavioral difficulties due to their disability. Most families are not perfect, but most times do not "cause" a child's behavioral difficulty; especially if the child's behavioral difficulty is at school.

Tip 2: Try and figure out what your child is telling you by their behavior; perhaps the work is too hard, they are trying to avoid the work etc. Try and figure out the ABC's of Behavior; A stands for antecedent (what was happening before the behavior), B stands for Behavior (what was the specific behavior), and C stands for the Consequence (what did the child get out of the behavior). By focusing on the behavior, and not the blame you will help your child.

Tip 3: If your child is struggling with academics due to a learning disability; make sure that they are receiving research based instruction, which is required by No Child Left Behind (NCLB). Children with learning disabilities need a reading program with five principles: Simultaneous multi sensory, systematic and cumulative, direct interaction, diagnostic teaching, and analytic instruction. Check out [www.ortongillingham.com](http://www.ortongillingham.com) for more information.

Tip 4: Tell the special education person, that your child has the right to a free appropriate public education, and you will be holding them accountable for that. Be honest, and bring up any school related reasons that you believe your child is having academic difficulty. Many schools continue using outdated curriculums that do not work.

You can overcome the blame that some disability educators try and place on your or your child. Continue to focus on your child, and their needs, and this will help you overcome the blame. Your child is depending on you!

### About the Author

JoAnn Collins is the parent of two adults with disabilities, has been an educational advocate for over 15 years, an author as well as a presenter. Her recently released book "Disability Deception; Lies Disability Educators Tell and How Parents Can Beat Them at Their Own Game" helps parents learn advocacy skills to be an assertive and persistent advocate for their child. To sign up for a Free E Newsletter, send an E mail to [JoAnn@disabilitydeception.com](mailto:JoAnn@disabilitydeception.com). Check out her Web site <http://www.disabilitydeception.com>.

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