



Effective Communication: The Art of Building Bridges with Your Child's IEP Team



By Elena Arrojo
Manager, Communications and Development

Jose and Maria Rodriguez are devoted parents to their 14-year-old son, Alan, a gentle-mannered boy who loves music and who has Down syndrome and autism. The San Diego couple, who have utilized TASK services for nine years, have made an impression on TASK Family Support Specialist Luisa Castillo for their commitment to one another and for the peaceful, effective way they've managed to communicate and build bridges with their son's IEP team. The results have been positive for them and may inspire other families to reevaluate their own communication strategies.

Effective communication starts at home and involves both parents. Raising a child with a disability requires parental teamwork. "Jose and Maria are very committed to each other," says Castillo. "They treat each other respectfully and share the responsibilities of caring for Alan. Jose is a totally committed father," she observes. "He participates in everything and even modifies his work schedule to accommodate a TASK workshop or participate in a learning experience." They apply this same practice of respect and commitment that they show each other in their approach to others.


"The way that you treat someone comes back to you," says Maria. "We think of the IEP team as a family, and we see ourselves, the parents, as [equal] members of the team. We are conscious of the fact that we're not just there to make demands. We must be team players." Both Maria and Jose participated in the TASK workshop, "Effective Communication Skills." Maria says, "The workshop has helped us to [consciously] be respectful in the way we make requests. The emotion and attitude you bring [to the experience] comes back to you. As parents, we must be flexible and choose our battles carefully."

Maria doesn't view school staff as the enemy; rather she tries to get to know the teachers more informally. "I observe in the classroom and try to learn the methods they use in school so I can also use them at home. This shows the teachers that I am interested in learning from them and working with them to help my son." She has even brought little appreciation gifts to the IEP team, which changes the tone of the meeting and establishes a sense of community. Sometimes the most simple things have the greatest impact.

As Maria sees it, the IEP team members must get to know each other in order to work together constructively. But don't confuse Maria's kindness and calm demeanor with weakness. She is fair, reasonable and measured, but not afraid to speak up or be honest.

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SPECIAL EDUCATION

Assessment Process

This workshop provides an overview of the importance of parent input and ways to ensure that all the child's needs are being considered when determining appropriate services and placement options.

CLASS DATES

Mon., Jan. 8, 6:00 – 8:00 pm
 Wed., Jan. 3, 9:00 – 11:00 am
 Thur., Feb. 22, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
 Mon., Mar. 5, 6:00 – 8:00 pm
 Mon., Mar. 12, 2:00 – 4:00 pm
 Mon., Mar. 19, 6:00 – 8:00 pm

LOCATION

TASK Anaheim
 Community Access and Disability Center – Riverside
 TASK South Gate
 TASK Anaheim
 Providence Community Center – San Diego
 TASK Anaheim

AT and the IEP

This workshop will help parents to understand the process of obtaining an appropriate AT assessment and how to work with the rest of the IEP team to provide effective services for their child. (Please note: this is not an assistive technology workshop.)

CLASS DATES

Tue., Mar. 13, 3:00 – 5:00 pm
 Wed., Mar. 14, 6:00 – 8:00 pm

LOCATION

Spring Valley Branch Library - Spring Valley
 TASK Anaheim

Basic Rights and Responsibilities

This workshop provides an overview of the basic rights and protections under IDEA, a brief overview of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and an explanation of record keeping and the assessment process.

CLASS DATES

Mon., Jan. 8, 3:00 – 5:00 pm
 Mon., Jan. 22, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

LOCATION

Spring Valley Branch Library - Spring Valley
 TASK South Gate

Effective Communication Skills

This workshop provides tried and true tips on how to positively advocate for your children, strengthen the relationship between parents and services agencies, and help create the appropriate IEP.

CLASS DATES

Fri., Jan. 26, 2:00 – 4:00 pm
 Mon., Feb. 5, 6:00 – 8:00 pm
 Wed., Feb. 21, 6:00 – 8:00 pm
 Wed., Mar. 28, 9:00 – 11:00 am

LOCATION

Kaiser Permanente - San Diego
 TASK Anaheim
 TASK Anaheim
 Community Access and Disability Center - Riverside

TASK workshops are often offered in partnership with local nonprofits, government agencies and schools in the communities they serve. Agencies interested in hosting a TASK workshop for families at their facility should call (714) 533-8275 or email task@taskca.org for more information. Workshops for families are offered free-of-charge. There is a \$25 fee for professionals.

NOTE: Workshops begin promptly at the scheduled time. Out of respect for our attendees, there will be no admittance for latecomers arriving more than 15 minutes after the scheduled start time. Workshops are for adults only unless otherwise stated.

NOTA: Los talleres comienzan con prontitud a la hora programada. Por respeto a nuestros asistentes, no habrá entrada para los que lleguen más de 15 minutos tarde. Los talleres son sólo para adultos, a menos que se indique lo contrario.

Navigating IEPs

This workshop provides an overview of the rights and protections under IDEA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the value of record keeping, the assessment process, timelines and other legal components of the IEP, including goals and objectives. Communication techniques are interspersed throughout the workshop.

CLASS DATES

Fri., Jan. 19, 9:00 am – 12:30 pm
Sat., Jan. 27, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm
Sat., Feb. 10, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm
Tue., Feb. 13, 9:00 – 11:00 am
Fri., Feb. 16, 9:00 am – 12:30 pm
Wed., Mar. 7, 6:00 – 8:00 pm
Tue., Mar. 13, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
Fri., Mar. 16, 9:00 am – 12:30 pm
Sat., Mar. 24, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm

LOCATION

TASK Alhambra
Parents' Place - West Covina
Parents' Place - West Covina
TASK Anaheim
TASK Alhambra
TASK Anaheim (Transition Age Youth)
TASK South Gate
TASK Alhambra
Parents' Place - West Covina

Section 504

This workshop focuses on the individual's rights and accommodations in school, postsecondary education and the workplace. A sample Section 504 Accommodation plan for education and health is included. Positive communication techniques are interspersed throughout the workshop.

CLASS DATES

Mon., Feb. 5, 6:00 – 8:00 pm

LOCATION

TASK Anaheim



MIDDLE SCHOOL AND ADULT TRANSITION

Getting and Keeping Your First Job

The goal of this session is to help families, caregivers and professionals understand the realities of today's work world so they can help youth with disabilities earn competitive employment. Participants will learn the importance of disability self-awareness, career planning and strategies to navigate resumes, job interviews and job accommodations.

CLASS DATES

Tue., Jan. 16, 9:00 – 11:00 am
Tue., Mar. 20, 9:00 – 11:00 am

LOCATION

TASK Anaheim
TASK Anaheim

Journey through Adolescence

This workshop will provide parents with basic information about the changes that puberty and adolescence bring to every child, including their son or daughter. The information is intended to help participants feel more comfortable and confident as they help their children safely navigate this important transition from childhood to adulthood. The ultimate aim is to promote the independence, personal safety, healthy relationships and social inclusion of youth with disabilities. This workshop is appropriate for parents of primary and middle school students.

CLASS DATES

Thur., Jan. 4, 1:30 – 3:30 pm

LOCATION

TASK Anaheim (Transition Age Youth - Self Advocacy)

Section 504 and Transition to Postsecondary Services

The goal of this session is to help families, caregivers and professionals understand the realities of today's work world so they can help youth with disabilities earn competitive employment. Participants will learn the importance of disability self-awareness, career planning and strategies to navigate resumes, job interviews and job accommodations.

CLASS DATES

Wed., Jan. 10, 6:00 – 8:00 pm

LOCATION

TASK Anaheim

Transition to Middle School

Transitions can be filled with anticipation and questions about what happens next. This workshop will guide parents and professionals on the ins and outs of what you can be doing now to prepare for middle school, as well as tips and strategies that can be used once students make the transition.

CLASS DATES

Mon., Feb. 16, 9:00 – 11:00 am

LOCATION

Spring Valley Branch Library - Spring Valley

Transition to Adult Services

This workshop focuses on the development of the individual Transition Plan (ITP) and the transition process from school to adult services. It provides an overview of agencies that serve adults with disabilities and provide them with the support to live independently and productively within the community.

CLASS DATES

Wed., Feb. 28, 9:00 – 11:00 am

Mon., Mar. 19, 6:00 – 8:00 pm

LOCATION

Community Access and Disability Center – Riverside

TASK Anaheim



ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

APPSolutely Amazing: Apps for Students with Special Needs

We will introduce applications with the following focus areas: video modeling, social skills, life skills, vocabulary building, language development, communication, fine motor skills and more. Join us for a fun, fast-paced session.

CLASS DATES

Sat., Jan. 13, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

LOCATION

Adamian Youth Center - San Gabriel (English/Chinese)

Did you know?

- TASK has a menu of more than 35 workshops.
- Workshops are free-of-charge for families.
- TASK can come to you!

Call today to have TASK present to your group in your community.

APPtastic Adventures: Fun and Educational Apps for Special Education

In this workshop, we will introduce some wonderful applications that can be used on iDevices for children with special needs. Some of the applications discussed and demonstrated will include early learning, reading, interactive books, writing, spelling, fine motor skills and much more. Join us for a fun, fast-paced workshop! (Please note: prior technology and iDevice knowledge is recommended but not required.)

CLASS DATES

Wed., Jan. 24, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Fri., Feb. 9, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

LOCATION

Parents' Place - West Covina
Family Focus Resource Center, NLACRC - Chatsworth

AT for Autism and Other Disabilities

This workshop introduces technology specifically related to disorders on the autism spectrum and for those with developmental disabilities, including software with the following focus area: video modeling, social skills, life skills, vocabulary building, language development, communication, interpreting emotions and more. We will offer many ideas from low tech interventions to high tech AAC devices.

CLASS DATES

Fri., Jan. 19, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Wed., Feb. 21, 4:30 – 6:30 pm
Wed., Mar. 14, 9:30 – 11:30 am

LOCATION

TASK Anaheim
UCP of Orange County - Irvine
The McClaney Family Resource Center, SCLARC - Los Angeles

Reading and Writing Solutions, Tips and Tricks

This workshop covers high and low tech reading and writing solutions. Some of the topics include screen readers, abbreviated expansion, word prediction, talking word processors, portable word processors, storybook software and more.

CLASS DATES

Tue., Feb. 13, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Tue., Feb. 27, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

LOCATION

Parents' Place - West Covina
TASK Anaheim



EDUCACIÓN ESPECIAL

Derechos Básicos y Responsabilidades

Un repaso general de los cuatro derechos básicos y protecciones debajo de IDEA, un breve repaso de la Sección 504 de la Acta de Rehabilitación, y una explicación de cómo mantener los archivos y el proceso de evaluación.

FECHAS DE CLASE

Lun., Ene. 8, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Lun., Ene. 22, 3:00 – 5:00 pm

UBICACIÓN

TASK South Gate
Spring Valley Branch Library - Spring Valley

Habilidades de Comunicación Efectiva

Este taller provee consejos probados y verdaderos sobre cómo abogar positivamente por sus hijos, fortalecer la relación entre padres y agencias de servicios y ayuda a crear el IEP apropiado.

FECHAS DE CLASE

Mier., Ene. 10, 12:00 – 2:00 pm
Lun., Mar. 26, 9:00 – 11:00 am

UBICACIÓN

San Ysidro Health Center - San Ysidro
Community Access and Disability Center - Riverside

Navegando IEPs

Un resumen general de los derechos y protecciones bajo la ley IDEA y la Sección 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitación Vocacional, el valor del mantenimiento de archivos, el proceso de evaluación, líneas de tiempo y otros componentes legales del IEP, incluyendo metas y objetivos. Técnicas de comunicación son entremezcladas a lo largo del taller.

FECHAS DE CLASE

Lun., Feb. 12, 5:00 – 7:00 pm
Mier., Feb. 21, 6:00 – 8:00 pm
Mar., Mar. 6, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
Mar., Mar. 13, 9:00 – 11:00 am

UBICACIÓN

Bonita Sunnyside Library - Bonita
TASK Anaheim
TASK South Gate
TASK Anaheim

Proceso de Evaluación

Se da una descripción de la importancia en la opinión de los padres y las maneras de asegurar que todas las necesidades del niño sean consideradas cuando se determinan los servicios apropiados y las opciones de colocación.

FECHAS DE CLASE

Mar., Ene. 9, 9:00 – 11:00 am
Mier., Ene. 10, 6:00 – 8:00 pm
Lun., Ene. 29, 9:00 – 11:00 am
Jue., Feb. 8, 10:00 – 12:00 pm
Lun., Feb. 26, 6:00 – 8:00 pm
Lun., Mar. 19, 2:00 – 4:00 pm

UBICACIÓN

TASK Anaheim
TASK Anaheim
Community Access and Disability Center - Riverside
TASK South Gate
Se Anunciará - Llame a TASK Anaheim para más información
Providence Community Center - San Diego

Sección 504

Este taller se enfoca en los derechos y acomodaciones de individuos en la escuela, la educación post-secundaria y en el lugar de trabajo. Un ejemplo de plan de acomodación de Sección 504 para la educación y salud. Técnicas positivas de comunicación son entremezcladas a lo largo del taller.

FECHAS DE CLASE

Mar., Feb. 6, 9:00 – 11:00 am

UBICACIÓN

TASK Anaheim

Tecnología de Asistencia y el IEP

Este taller ayudará a los padres a comprender el proceso para obtener una evaluación apropiada de AT y cómo trabajar con el resto del equipo del IEP para proveer servicios efectivos para sus hijos. (Tenga en cuenta: este no es un taller de tecnología de asistencia.)

FECHAS DE CLASE

Mier., Mar. 7, 12:00 – 2:00 pm

UBICACIÓN

San Ysidro Health Center - San Ysidro



TRANSICIÓN DE LA ESCUELA SECUNDARIA

Transición a la Escuela Intermedia

Transiciones pueden llenarse con anticipación y preguntas sobre lo que sucede a continuación. Este taller guiará a padres y profesionales sobre los detalles de lo que pueden estar haciendo ahorita para prepararse para la escuela intermedia, así como consejos y estrategias que pueden usarse una vez que los estudiantes hacen la transición.

FECHAS DE CLASE

Lun., Feb. 5, 12:00 – 2:00 pm

UBICACIÓN

Spring Valley Branch Library - Spring Valley

Transición a Servicios de Adultos

Este taller se enfoca en el desarrollo del Plan de Transición Individualizado (ITP) y el proceso de transición de la escuela a los servicios de adultos. Explica el criterio de otros sistemas y el proceso de aplicación, i.e. la Administración del Seguro Social, Departamento de Rehabilitación, y el Centro Regional. Se discuten los apoyos para que el individuo pueda vivir independientemente y productivamente en la comunidad. Técnicas de comunicación son intercambiadas a través del taller.

FECHAS DE CLASE

Lun., Feb. 26, 9:00 – 11:00 am

UBICACIÓN

Community Access and Disability Center - Riverside



TECNOLOGÍA DE ASISTENCIA

Aventuras APptásticas: Aplicaciones Divertidas y Educativas para la Educación Especial

En este taller, presentaremos algunas aplicaciones maravillosas que se pueden usar en iDevices para niños con necesidades especiales. Algunas de las aplicaciones de las cuales vamos hablar y demostrar incluirán aprendizaje temprano, lectura, libros interactivos, escritura, ortografía, motricidad fina y mucho más. ¡Acompáñenos a un taller divertido y rápido! (Tenga en cuenta: se recomienda la tecnología previa y el conocimiento de iDevice, pero no es obligatorio.)

FECHAS DE CLASE

Lun., Mar. 5, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

UBICACIÓN

Parents' Place - West Covina

Soluciones de Lectura y Escritura, Consejos y Trucos

Este taller cubre soluciones de lectura y escritura de alta y baja tecnología. Algunos de los temas incluyen lectores de pantalla, expansión abreviada, predicción de palabras, procesadores de palabra que hablan, procesadores de texto portátiles, software de libros de cuentos y más.

FECHAS DE CLASE

Lun., Feb. 12, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Vie., Mar. 30, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

UBICACIÓN

TASK Anaheim

Parents' Place - West Covina

Tecnología de Asistencia para Autismo y Otras Discapacidades

Este taller presenta tecnología específicamente relacionada con trastornos del espectro autista y para personas con discapacidades del desarrollo, incluido software con las siguientes áreas de enfoque: modelado de video, habilidades sociales, habilidades de vida, desarrollo de vocabulario, desarrollo del lenguaje, comunicación, interpretación de emociones y más. Ofreceremos muchas ideas, desde intervenciones de baja tecnología hasta dispositivos AAC de alta tecnología.

FECHAS DE CLASE

Mar., Ene. 23, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Mier., Mar. 14, 9:30 – 11:30 am

UBICACIÓN

TASK Anaheim

The McClaney Family Resource Center, SCLARC - Los Angeles



TEMAS ESPECIALES

Preparación para Desastres

Este es un taller interactivo de una hora para jóvenes y adultos jóvenes les enseñara a los participantes con discapacidades a prepararse para, planificar y reaccionar adecuadamente en una emergencia.

FECHAS DE CLASE

Lun., Feb. 5, 6:00 – 8:00 pm

UBICACIÓN

Bonita Sunnyside Library - Bonita

Prevención de Bullying: Lo Que los Padres Necesitan Saber

Este taller fue desarrollado por el Centro Nacional de Prevención del Bullying de PACER. Está dirigido a padres y profesionales para explorar la dinámica del bullying para que puedan aprender qué hacer y cómo ayudar a los niños a abordar el tema. Los temas consisten en: quién es bullied; Por qué los niños son bullied; El papel que juegan las escuelas; Leyes y polizas; y estrategias de prevención de bullying.

FECHAS DE CLASE

Lun., Ene. 8, 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Lun., Ene. 22, 6:00 – 8:00 pm

UBICACIÓN

TASK Anaheim

Se Anunciará - Llame a TASK Anaheim para más información

To register for a TASK workshop, please visit taskca.org or call the workshop location directly.

Para registrarse para un taller de TASK, por favor visite taskca.org o llame directamente a la ubicación del taller.

(Continued from page 1) **Effective Communication: The Art of Building Bridges with Your Child's IEP Team**

When Alan needed a communication solution for his speech problems, the team came together to work effectively towards a solution. His special education teacher took the initiative, requested an assessment and made sure staff and parents were trained on the device. Maria and Jose really felt the staff was there for Alan and committed to doing their part to provide him with an appropriate education.

Increasing knowledge is a major tool. Jose and Maria have taken advantage of every service TASK has to offer, including phone consults, IEP clinics, workshops, and assistive technology clinics. "They seek out resources wherever they can," says Castillo.

At her first IEP meeting, Jose and Maria felt very out of place. Neither of them speak English, and they were intimidated by all of the professionals there. "TASK helped us to understand our rights under the law," says Maria. "We learned that we could request an interpreter, have the right to ask for materials in translation, and can record the meeting with prior notice. TASK helped us to be better informed, which made us feel better."

This year, Alan began high school, and Jose and Maria have had to start over again with a new IEP team in a new school. "We're still getting to know each other," says Maria. It's not like it was at the other school, and it hasn't been easy, but Maria cultivates patience and continues to practice a peaceful approach.

Attitude and outlook is everything. "Our son is our most valuable gift," says Maria. "He has transformed our lives and taken us to a new world that we don't [always] understand. Maybe it's different than what we expected, but it's not bad," she says. "We see the beauty, the good things...like opening a curtain and seeing a beautiful landscape. Always look for the positive, and never give up." ■

TASK WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

LOS ANGELES COUNTY:

- **Adamian Youth Center** - 100 Clary Ave., San Gabriel, CA 91776, Mie Ye at (626) 226-9955 or email mei91755@gmail.com
- **Family Focus Resource Center, North Los Angeles County Regional Center** - 9200 Oakdale, Ste. 100, Chatsworth, CA 91311, Theresa Quarry at (818) 374-9107 or email theresa.quary@csun.edu
- **Parents' Place** - 1500 S. Hyacinth Ave., West Covina, CA 91791, (626) 919-1091 or visit parentsplacefrc.com
- **TASK Alhambra** - 1000 S. Fremont Ave., Bldg. A-6 FRC Conference Room, Alhambra, CA 91803, (626) 300-1043
- **TASK South Gate** - 13308 Paramount Blvd., South Gate, CA 90280, (562) 529-5599
- **The McClaney Family Resource Center, South Central Los Angeles County Regional Center** - 2500 S. Western Ave., 3rd Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90018, (213) 744-8878

ORANGE COUNTY:

- **TASK Anaheim**, 100 W. Cerritos Ave., Anaheim, CA 92805, (866) 828-8275
- **UCP of Orange County** - 980 Roosevelt, Ste. 100, Irvine, CA 92620, Alicia Stearns (Chan) at (949) 333-6430

RIVERSIDE COUNTY:

- **Community Access and Disability Center, TASK Riverside** - 6848 Magnolia Ave., Suite 150, Riverside, CA 92506, (951) 328-1200

SAN DIEGO COUNTY:

- **TASK San Diego** - 3180 University Ave., Ste. 615, San Diego, CA 92104, (619) 282-0846
- **Bonita Sunnyside Library** - 4375 Bonita Rd., Bonita, CA 91902, (619) 282-0846
- **Kaiser Permanente, John Richards Learning Center**, 3rd Floor - 7060 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., San Diego, CA 92111, (619) 282-0846
- **Providence Community Center** - 6244 El Cajon Blvd., #14, San Diego, CA 92115, (619) 282-0846
- **San Ysidro Health Center** - 4050 Beyer Blvd., 2nd Floor, San Ysidro, CA 92173, (619) 282-0846
- **Spring Valley Branch Library** - 836 Kempton St., Spring Valley, CA 91977, (619) 282-0846

TASK

MEMBERSHIP



Please mail your completed form with payment option, to:

TASK
100 West Cerritos Avenue,
Anaheim, CA 92805

MEMBER BENEFITS

- Unlimited access by appointment to the TASK Tech Centers in Anaheim and South Gate (a \$25 value per visit)
- TECH Connection, a monthly group for ages 12 and up that focuses on social, life and communication skills (a members-only program offered free-of-charge)
- Camp TECHie, a 6-week summer camp for ages 5-18 that focuses on Social and Life Skills (a members-only program with an additional camp registration fee)
- Discounted admission to TASK special events
- New member recognition in the TASK monthly e-newsletter

MEMBERSHIP LEVEL

- Family - \$35 Contributing - \$50 Professional - \$100
- Corporate - \$500 TASK Angel - \$1,000

MEMBERSHIP TYPE

- New Membership Renewal

Full Name

Mailing Address

City

State

Zip Code

Phone Number

Email

Payment Methods

- I will pay online via credit card or PayPal at taskca.org
- I will mail a check with my form

SUPPORT TASK

Our Impact

- 95% of families are satisfied with our training
- 90% say our support helped them make decisions about their child's education
- 80% of children received more appropriate services

\$550 serves a family for one year.

About 1 million people in need

When we all give a little, we accomplish a lot.

Donate monthly.

55 donors @ \$10/month

37 donors @ \$15/month

22 donors @ \$25/month

11 donors @ \$50/month

4 ways

to get to \$550

One family at a time.

Services are offered free-of-charge to families.

Visit taskca.org or call 866.828.8275.



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Need help navigating the special education
process or related services?

TASK can help!



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