



## AT A GLANCE

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## What is Working?

May 2012 Newsletter

Making decisions takes energy. The more time and energy spent reinventing the wheel can generate stress. Stress can lead to exhaustion and an inability to make good choices. The vicious cycle! When making decisions about students' education, one way to simplify the process is to use what has already worked.

As the school year is ending for many, this can be a strategic time for families, students, and educators to reflect on the past school year and what's worked. Let's recognize what aspects of the school year were positive so these can be replicated next year.

Take time now to jot down what contributed to a student's positive learning and social experiences. This can become the framework for the upcoming year. Here are some questions to guide your thinking.

### Families:

- \* What effective ways were used for on-going communication with the school staff?
- \* How were you able to share information about your child's strengths, interests, and learning styles?
- \* What learning supports helped your child be successful?
- \* In what ways did you find to volunteer, either at school, or at home?
- \* What were some ways you were able to help your child develop friendships?
- \* How were special education supports brought to your child in the general education room?

### Students:

- \* How did your teachers help you learn new skills this year?
- \* What did you like doing with your friends at school?
- \* What technology did you use that was most helpful?
- \* What was fun at school?
- \* What supports did you get from friends that were helpful?
- \* What would you like to learn more about?

### Educators:

- \* What professional development opportunities were most helpful this year?
- \* How were other staff informed about students' strengths, needs, goals, and accommodations?
- \* What methods were used to collaboratively plan with key players?
- \* How did you communicate on a regular basis with families?
- \* What new technology did you integrate into your lessons?
- \* How did you successfully incorporate the students' strengths when teaching new skills?
- \* What data collection system was the most effective to track students' progress?

Families, students and educators all play an important role in creating positive education experiences. Start with what has already worked well. Interested in tips for making the transition to next year smoother? Read helpful ideas on my website, go to the Resource tab, then click on IEPs and scroll down to [Transitions](#). [Click here](#).

[Identify your vision:](#) to identify what a positive, successful school year looks and feels like

[Use your voice:](#) to thank others for their efforts

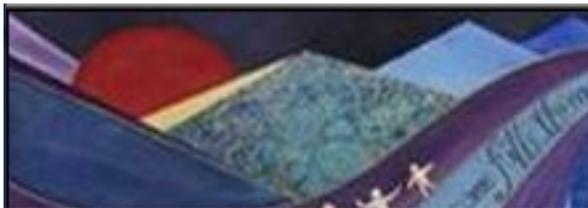
[Work together:](#) to use what has worked in the past

Take an action step now and email this newsletter to others!

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### Resources



We Dance Together: A Painted Essay  
About My Education With Katie  
By Candee Basford

The illustrations and words will enchant and inspire you! [Click here](#).



### Websites



Beth Mount's work centers on the value that we all count and all of us fit somewhere.

[Click here](#) for her website.

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Please let me know if you're interested in one of my presentations and/or customized consulting and coaching.

Remember, what we anticipate, determines what we find!

*Charmaine Thaner*

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As a parent and an educator, I bring 35+ years of experience and enthusiasm to create positive change for students, families, and educators!

How may I support you? Click the links below to learn more.

[Parent Liaison](#)

[Presentations](#)

[Educational Consultant for Schools](#)

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Would you love to have an easy to read, magazine-like format blog to read?

Some of the articles are written by me and others are scooped from a variety of sites. Go to [Beyond Special Education](#), then click on the blue Follow button in the right hand corner.

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