

Steps to Create a Website for Parents of Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder

By

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- 1) **What do you want parents to know?** Decide what you feel is important, or crucial, for parents to know. Suggestions might be the school calendar, the classroom daily schedule, contact information, the class supply list, or an ongoing wish list of items needed.
- 2) **What do the parents want to know?** Before creating a webpage, sending home a parent survey can be very helpful. Do they have computers or access to computers on a frequent basis? Do they want educational yet fun website suggestions? Do they want training on how to read to their children? Do they need an overview of ASD?
- 3) **Find resources.** Many parents are unaware of the resources that are at their fingertips. Do your research and find resources that support children and families challenged by ASD. Be sure to add the name of the organization, the website, and a brief description of their available supports and why they should be contacted.
- 4) **Decide where you will build your website.** When looking for a host for my website, I knew I wanted it to be user friendly, professional, and FREE! I found these three qualifications with www.weebly.com. This website has allowed my webpage to be easy to navigate as well as streamlined. It was very easy to add pictures, make it colorful, and it looks professional. It is also easy to edit with updated information. (My link: <http://griffinsclass.weebly.com/> .)
- 5) **Promote your webpage.** There is no point in a website if you don't promote it. Be sure to state your website verbally, in school newsletters, your welcome note, and a few other places. If I had a dime for every time a parent asked me for the website address or a question that is answered on the website, I would be rich! It is easy for things to get lost in the shuffle in such a busy household. Being sure to reiterate the webpage will ensure that it is used properly.