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# Residential Schools V/s Day Schools

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It is hard for any parent to get used to the idea of sending their kids away to school and perhaps even harder for parents of special needs kids, such as those who suffer from autism, to do so. Is your child getting a good teaching? Are other kids treating him or her fairly? Will your child enjoy this new situation? Many schools are now set in place to put these fears to rest by solely devoting their attention towards special needs kids, and the concept of sending an autistic child to residential school for autistic kids instead of a day school program is becoming more popular among parents. Although it may be difficult to adjust to your child livelihood away from home, this may be where the best care and education is available for you child, so carefully consider the advantages before dismissing the idea of residential school for your autistic child.

Residential school program are often no different than day school programs, but here the student has the opportunity to interact with others outside of a classroom setting. This is sometimes exactly what an autistic child needs to learn socialization skills with people outside of the family.

These schools are also very safe and organized in a way that is conducive to learning. For example, Franklin Academy in Connecticut, which specializes in teaching non-verbal students, has a three to one student to teacher ratio and an average class size of six students. They also plan small-group field trips to public places, so your child has an opportunity to interact in public places.

This is as opposed to day schools, which typically have larger class sizes and therefore cannot handle public outings. Even if the day school specializes in teaching autistic kids, they simply may not have the resources and time during the school day for field trips.

Another advantage over day schools, whether public of confidential, is the living aspect. Although the students who attend these schools are greatly supervised, they learn living skills that they will need in an adult world. Whereas you may feel obligated or want to do things for your child at home, at a residential school, your child will be encouraged to live more independently. At Brehm Preparatory School in Illinois, students learn time and money organization and are in charge of simple home maintenance (chores), study time, and recreational activities. Here also, the emphasis is on family.

Family is an important thing to consider with any type of residential school. While your child is learning valuable social skills, he or she may become more distant from his or her immediate family. At schools like Brehm, including Hampshire Country School in New Hampshire, have parents' weekend often to so parents can visit their kids. Consider also the stress this may relieve for you and your family. Since you will need to spend less time helping your autistic child with learning everyday life skills, you can devote more time to enjoying their company when you see them. Spend time on your marriage and with your other kids, activities that would normally be hard to achieve or ignored with an autistic child at home.

However, it is significant to note that residential schooling is not for everyone. Typically, your child needs to be high performance to handle this school atmosphere. You will need to consider cost, since tuition, room, and board for residential schools can be rather expensive. Remember, residential school is not for everyone, but you should definitely consider the option. Research this type of program so that you can make the best decisions possible for your child's education.

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