

Celebrating Different Learning Styles

What is iQ: smartparent?

iQ: smartparent is an Emmy-winning multimedia television and web series designed for parents that will empower them with new knowledge, tools, and abilities to successfully guide their children through the changing landscape of digital media and technology. It's a growing community of caregivers, national experts, educators, and parent bloggers who want to understand the opportunities and challenges of media as it relates to the development of their children. *iQ: smartparent* was created by WQED Multimedia in 2012.

About this Episode

This episode of *iQ: smartparent* is about how to help children succeed by celebrating how children are unique in the way they learn and experience the world. How is the landscape changing for how we view and think about learning disabilities today? How can technology help individuals, who are differently abled, communicate? Meet a teacher uses hands-on science and math projects in his special education classroom, and two young people who host their own talk show to educate people about autism.

Discussion Questions

1. How did you learn about individuals with learning disabilities? Did it contain bias or a stigma? How would you explain learning disabilities to your family?
2. Guests Kristen and Michelle gave some simple fantastic assistive items for children such as bag clips or pool noodles for holding cards, or tabs to help with turning pages. Are there tasks your children struggle with? How can you make that task easier with ideas like these?
3. How can you use smartphones /tablets to reinforce things that they have learned? Such as how to run errands, make a sandwich, etc.
4. After seeing Patrick Waters's students' creations, how does it change your perception of individuals with special needs?
5. *The Alex and Hayden Talk Show* is used by the state of Illinois to train people for social interactions with individuals who have autism. What makes Alex and Hayden's talk show effective? Why? Would you use their talk show to teach your children or students about autism?
6. What are some things you or your child's school can do to help empower individuals with special needs or learning disabilities?



About the Guests



Dr. John Carosso works as a Licensed Child Clinical Psychologist, Certified School Psychologist, and he has a Graduate Certificate in Applied Behavioral Analysis in Special Education. Dr. Carosso has more than 25 years of experience working in residential, inpatient, outpatient and school settings. He is Clinical Director of the Licensed Outpatient Mental Health Clinic, [Community Psychiatric Centers](#); Executive Director of the [Autism Center of Pittsburgh](#); and Director of the [Dyslexia Diagnostic and Treatment Center](#). He also operates [Dr. John Carosso, Psy.D. & Associates, Inc.](#) Dr. Carosso has conducted more than 20,000 evaluations on children with autism, learning problems and dyslexia, attention-deficit, trauma, depression, bipolar, anxiety, obsessive compulsive disorder, and related difficulties.



Patrick Waters is an educator and [blogger](#) with experience working with children with neurological differences. Patrick Waters taught at The Monarch School in Houston from 2010 to 2016 as a Professional Educator and Mentor. He fulfilled various roles, such as English teacher and Math instructor, but he most treasured his role as the founder and educator in charge of the STEAMworks, the Monarch Makerspace. The STEAMworks was a place for the kids to dream big and gain skills and competencies when they least expected it.



Kristen Tachoir is a Training and Consultation Coordinator with the [Allegheny Intermediate Unit](#). Her position focuses on Assistive Technology. Kristen received her BS in Speech and Hearing from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and a master's degree in Education from Edinboro University. Kristen began her career working as a speech/language therapist for a large urban school district. She has been working in the field of assistive technology for more than 15 years.



Michelle Lubetsky is a Training and Consultation Coordinator with the [Allegheny Intermediate Unit](#). She received her master's degree in special education from the University of Pittsburgh and she is board certified as a behavior analyst, with specialization in autism. In addition, Michelle is certified as a Social Thinking Mentor, through Think Social Publishing, Inc. She has experience as a classroom teacher, university instructor and supervisor; consultant for the Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network; and as a private consultant. Michelle has presented numerous local and national workshops in the areas of autism, social competence, applied behavior analysis, and effective instructional strategies for all learners.



Jan Abernathy teaches 5th grade at East Elementary School in the [Greenville Area School District](#) in Greenville, PA. Her career at East Elementary began in 1987, shortly after working as a remedial math teacher for Americorps at Mars Middle School. Jan earned a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and Special Education from Slippery Rock University. She received a master's degree in Instructional Media from Wilkes University. Jan is a member of the Discovery Educator Network Leadership Council and the Pennsylvania Association for Educational Communications and Technologies.

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Online Resources

Identity-First Autistic – Effecting Social Change Through Language

www.identityfirstautistic.org/the-neurodiversity-paradigm-

Neurodiversity: Terms & Definitions

<http://neurocosmopolitanism.com/neurodiversity-some-basic-terms-definitions/>

Three Great Parent Resources for Learning and Attention Issues

commonsensemedia.org/blog/three-great-parent-resources-for-learning-and-attention-issues

Assistive Technology

www.autismspeaks.org/family-services/resource-library/assistive-technology

Autism Spectrum Disorder and Assistive Technology

<http://at.mo.gov/information-resources-publications/documents/Autism.pdf>

Educating Everybody's Children: Diverse Teaching Strategies for Diverse Learners

www.ascd.org/publications/books/107003/chapters/Diverse-Teaching-Strategies-for-Diverse-Learners.aspx

What accessibility settings on my devices can help my child with special needs?

www.commonsensemedia.org/special-needs/what-accessibility-settings-on-my-devices-can-help-my-child-with-special-needs

Together We Learn Better: Inclusive Schools Benefit All Children

<http://inclusiveschools.org/together-we-learn-better-inclusive-schools-benefit-all-children/>

Let's Play Together: Fostering Friendships Between Children with and Without Disabilities

www.pbs.org/parents/education/learning-disabilities/fostering-friendships/

PBS Parents: Learning Disabilities

www.pbs.org/parents/education/learning-disabilities/

PBS Parents: Assistive Technology

pbs.org/parents/education/learning-disabilities/strategies-for-learning-disabilities/assistive-technology/

Communication Strategies

pbs.org/parents/education/learning-disabilities/strategies-for-learning-disabilities/communication-strategies/

Inclusive Education

www.pbs.org/parents/education/learning-disabilities/inclusive-education/



Let's Play Together: Fostering Friendships Between Children with and Without Disabilities
www.pbs.org/parents/education/learning-disabilities/fostering-friendships/

All Kinds of Minds
www.allkindsofminds.org/discover-all-kinds-of-minds

The Alex and Hayden Show Ep 1
www.youtube.com/watch?v=9aLXu-l6SBo

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