


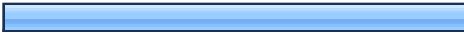


# Are There Really "Natural Supports" for Individuals with Disabilities?







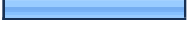


1. I am a		Response Percent	Response Count
Parent/guardian and caregiver of an individual(s) with a disability		67.8%	40
Parent/guardian of an individual(s) with a disability		15.3%	9
Caregiver of an individual(s) with a disability		10.2%	6
Individual with a Disability		6.8%	4
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>59</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>0</b>

2. The individual with a disability is the following age		Response Percent	Response Count
0-4		10.2%	6
5-9		15.3%	9
10-14		16.9%	10
15-19		15.3%	9
19-24		11.9%	7
25+		30.5%	18
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>59</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>0</b>


**3. Choose all that apply. The individual with a disability has a**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Physical disability		45.8%	27
<b>Cognitive disability</b>		<b>69.5%</b>	<b>41</b>
Mental Health Disability		28.8%	17
Other (please specify)		33.9%	20
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>59</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>0</b>





**4. Choose all that apply: I have "natural supports" that I can regularly depend on to help from the following:**

		Response Percent	Response Count
<b>Immediate extended family (brothers, sisters, grandma, etc.)</b>		<b>83.1%</b>	<b>49</b>
Neighbors		28.8%	17
Friends		59.3%	35
Church		39.0%	23
Social group		27.1%	16
None that I can think of		1.7%	1
Other (please specify)		15.3%	9
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>59</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>0</b>

**5. I feel that my level of help and support from my "natural supports" is**

		Response Percent	Response Count
<b>Strong</b>		100.0%	59
Moderate		0.0%	0
Little		0.0%	0
Miniscule		0.0%	0
No support from "Natural supports"		0.0%	0
<b>answered question</b>			<b>59</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>0</b>

**6. I have been made to feel "guilty" by other parents, professionals, service folks, articles in magazines/bulletins, the "system," and/or others regarding my level of having "natural supports"**

		Response Percent	Response Count
<b>Never</b>		52.5%	31
Sometimes		35.6%	21
Frequently		10.2%	6
A lot		1.7%	1
<b>answered question</b>			<b>59</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>0</b>

**7. In regards to training in gaining and using "natural supports"**

		<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
<b>I have received no such training</b>		<b>61.0%</b>	<b>36</b>
I have received training and it has not been helpful		6.8%	4
I have received training and it has been somewhat helpful		18.6%	11
I have received training and it has been very helpful		13.6%	8
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>59</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>0</b>

**8. Please provide comments and thoughts about any aspect of "natural supports" you would like to share. This is an anonymous poll.**

	<b>Response Count</b>
	25
<b>answered question</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>skipped question</b>	<b>34</b>

**Q3. Choose all that apply. The individual with a disability has a**

1	complex medical needs	Apr 13, 2011 10:45 PM
2	autism	Apr 14, 2011 12:08 PM
3	developmental disability-Autism	Apr 14, 2011 12:29 PM
4	Siezure Disorder	Apr 14, 2011 1:44 PM
5	Traumatic Brain Injury	Apr 14, 2011 3:27 PM
6	Multiple	Apr 14, 2011 4:55 PM
7	Developmental Disability: Autism	Apr 15, 2011 6:16 AM
8	autism	Apr 18, 2011 8:08 AM
9	Down Syndrome	Apr 18, 2011 1:24 PM
10	ADHA	Apr 18, 2011 5:43 PM
11	Autism	Apr 18, 2011 8:16 PM
12	hearing	Apr 18, 2011 8:47 PM
13	Autism	Apr 19, 2011 2:01 PM
14	Down Syndrome	Apr 19, 2011 3:24 PM
15	autism	Apr 19, 2011 4:11 PM
16	visual	Apr 19, 2011 6:30 PM
17	blind	Apr 20, 2011 8:24 AM
18	Behavioral	Apr 21, 2011 8:11 AM
19	Autism	Apr 21, 2011 5:30 PM
20	PDD-NOS	Apr 23, 2011 8:23 AM

**Q4. Choose all that apply:**

**I have "natural supports" that I can regularly depend on to help from the following:**

1	family	Apr 14, 2011 6:43 AM
2	Friends of the person with the disability from a group of typical persons he is part of	Apr 14, 2011 8:43 AM
3	Co-workers	Apr 14, 2011 4:55 PM
4	Babysitters can handle her physically after surgery like now. Most of the time, grandparents can help but not during times when she is more physically dependent.	Apr 16, 2011 11:02 AM
5	school	Apr 18, 2011 1:31 PM
6	coworkers	Apr 19, 2011 6:32 AM
7	school	Apr 19, 2011 4:11 PM
8	DSACO, autism group	Apr 19, 2011 5:01 PM
9	NAMI	Apr 20, 2011 9:44 AM

**Q8. Please provide comments and thoughts about any aspect of "natural supports" you would like to share. This is an anonymous poll.**

1	The school system should be a natural support since my child spends 8 hours a day there, 5 days a week. "In loco parentis" doesn't seem to apply to many school officials.	Apr 13, 2011 9:51 PM
2	I am fortunate to have adult children and friends who can support us in a crisis. My oldest son is always available to help. HOWEVER, I don't, won't and can't expect my adult children and friends to provide the day-to-day support needed. They have their own families, responsibilities, jobs, etc. and shouldn't be expected to make-up for insufficient service system supports - even though they do . . . and so do I.	Apr 13, 2011 10:45 PM
3	I had this in new york	Apr 14, 2011 6:43 AM
4	I have found the development of natural supports to take a long time, to involve some "starts, stops, backing up and starting over," to be absolutely essential to avoid my own burnout. I have also found that I have had to take care not to burnout people who are natural supports and to ensure they know how crucial they are to creating a good life for my son.	Apr 14, 2011 8:43 AM
5	My mother and father help me and my husband with out 4 year old autistic son. However, that help is just respite care, not actual therapeutic help which he so needs but is unable to get because insurance companies have found lots of ways of not paying for it.	Apr 14, 2011 12:29 PM
6	It would be nice if my daughter had friends and not just family	Apr 14, 2011 1:44 PM
7	I have over 30 disabilities, and I'm only 18. So having natural supports helps me a lot. If it wasn't for my natural supports, I would have not graduated high school, & find and keep a full time job. The people who don't have disabilities need to know that natural supports & federal programs make us disabled people ABLE to function with little to no support.	Apr 14, 2011 4:55 PM
8	Very important for social relations and going out. At home it's always more easy !!	Apr 16, 2011 12:49 AM
9	The support is recent, and follows years of terrible disappointment from hoping to get natural supports from family.	Apr 16, 2011 6:20 AM
10	My family members who support me emotionally and with advice are aging. I don't want to burden the next generation.	Apr 17, 2011 8:04 AM
11	I think we all want the best for our kids. I just wish they didn't make it so hard not to feel quilty and so expensive to get the help we need.	Apr 18, 2011 6:49 AM
12	When I'm gone, MANY other people will care enough to watch... People who love him for who he is.	Apr 18, 2011 7:35 AM
13	I have reached out and found these supports. They do not spring up automatically. They take work to cultivate and nurture. It cannot be assumed that everyone has these, or is capable for forming these.	Apr 18, 2011 9:44 AM
14	Never heard of Natural Supports ? I have two kids on a IEP at school both have anxiety, depression, A.D.D. and they have to read out loud to learn and school teaching methods are not working so they read at 3rd level in the 7th and 10th grade	Apr 18, 2011 1:43 PM

**Q8. Please provide comments and thoughts about any aspect of "natural supports" you would like to share. This is an anonymous poll.**

15	we only have one ( his sister- 18yr old) who is able to provide the"natural supoport",but to her decline in her health, that will stop in time. When the support is completely gone- I the Mom will be the one to support. Luckily, he is able to stay home for short period of tme along. This gives his dad to make it in when necessary.	Apr 18, 2011 3:56 PM
16	I believe we should look to ourselves and our immediate and extended family and friends before looking to the government for support for our unique blessings.	Apr 19, 2011 3:24 PM
17	"Natural supports" are a blessing from God. What they do not provide so much that my son so desperately needs is more funding for things that insurance doesn't cover like homeopathic doctors, dietary supplements, professional childcare and certain effective, but costly interventions for children with autism.	Apr 19, 2011 4:11 PM
18	It is very hard to find natural supports for a child with behavioral issues. I am lucky to have parents who live VERY close and can help me tremendously. If it wasn't for them my life would be very different.	Apr 20, 2011 8:24 AM
19	NAMI - National Alliance on Mental Illness - saved my life. I am a spouse (Not a choice above), I have a support group, incredibly valuable education and caregiving assistance. all from NAMI - no one else ever helped me.	Apr 20, 2011 9:44 AM
20	families will and/or SHOULD take care of their own	Apr 20, 2011 1:27 PM
21	I think the earlier that you begin educating the community and developing the natural supports that your child the earlier. I think if they connect with your child when they are younger it is more successful.	Apr 20, 2011 2:02 PM
22	natural supports are not as special as you are trying to make them alot of them only want to keep the person, client, person with disabilities.....around only for there check	Apr 21, 2011 6:18 AM
23	My son is now 20 with high functioning autism. After becoming a single parent when he was four, I had to develop a strong network of support for him. A good example of one of his natural supports now is that he had an internship last school year. When summer came, they asked him to stay on. Since he had no transportation, he asked a co-worker if he could carpool and gave her money weekly for gas. And they liked him so much they extended his job through this school year too.	Apr 21, 2011 5:30 PM
24	we do not want to have to depend 24/7 on our "natural supports". they love our son but we do not and cannot expect them to care for him over their own families. Grandparents are getting old and will not be a source of support for much longer.	Apr 23, 2011 8:23 AM
25	My late husband and I never took credit for our son's natural supports. We were always convinced that they were serendipity and also due to the natural good heartedness and caring of these families as well as our son's loving nature and personality.	Apr 24, 2011 10:53 AM