




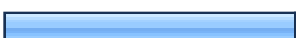
Are There Really "Natural Supports" for Individuals with Disabilities?










1. I am a			Response Percent	Response Count
Parent/guardian and caregiver of an individual(s) with a disability			73.9%	17
Parent/guardian of an individual(s) with a disability			21.7%	5
Caregiver of an individual(s) with a disability			0.0%	0
Individual with a Disability			4.3%	1
			answered question	23
			skipped question	0

2. The individual with a disability is the following age			Response Percent	Response Count
0-4			100.0%	23
5-9			0.0%	0
10-14			0.0%	0
15-19			0.0%	0
19-24			0.0%	0
25+			0.0%	0
			answered question	23
			skipped question	0

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

		Response Percent	Response Count
Physical disability		60.9%	14
Cognitive disability		56.5%	13
Mental Health Disability		13.0%	3
Other (please specify)		43.5%	10
		answered question	23
		skipped question	0

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

		Response Percent	Response Count
Immediate extended family (brothers, sisters, grandma, etc.)		43.5%	10
Neighbors		8.7%	2
Friends		39.1%	9
Church		21.7%	5
Social group		21.7%	5
None that I can think of		21.7%	5
Other (please specify)		21.7%	5
		answered question	23
		skipped question	0

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

		Response Percent	Response Count
Strong		26.1%	6
Moderate		13.0%	3
Little		26.1%	6
Miniscule		17.4%	4
No support from "Natural supports"		17.4%	4
answered question			23
skipped question			0

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
Never		43.5%	10
Sometimes		34.8%	8
Frequently		8.7%	2
A lot		13.0%	3
answered question			23
skipped question			0

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

		Response Percent	Response Count
I have received no such training		82.6%	19
I have received training and it has not been helpful		0.0%	0
I have received training and it has been somewhat helpful		8.7%	2
I have received training and it has been very helpful		8.7%	2
		answered question	23
		skipped question	0

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

	Response Count
	9
answered question	9
skipped question	14

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

1	non-verbal	Apr 13, 2011 10:56 PM
2	developmental disability-Autism	Apr 14, 2011 12:29 PM
3	Speech impairment (nonverbal)	Apr 14, 2011 3:33 PM
4	Developmental Disability: Autism	Apr 15, 2011 6:16 AM
5	diagnosis of Down syndrome	Apr 15, 2011 8:46 AM
6	Autism	Apr 15, 2011 1:41 PM
7	Global developmental delay (all in all)	Apr 18, 2011 7:21 AM
8	developmental delay	Apr 18, 2011 9:56 AM
9	severe anaphylactic food allergies	Apr 18, 2011 10:02 AM
10	Down Syndrome	Apr 18, 2011 1:24 PM

Q4. Choose all that apply:

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

1	When I say immediate. There is only one person besides myself that can dependably help me care for my child.	Apr 13, 2011 10:56 PM
2	Local support group	Apr 14, 2011 3:33 PM
3	I have family but I can't regularly depend on them	Apr 14, 2011 9:29 PM
4	Occasional financial help with medical bills from my sister. Otherwise, I don't know what "natural supports" means. But I don't have any family, neighbors, or friends etc. that can help us out on regular basis.	Apr 15, 2011 8:46 AM
5	1 grandmother 2x a year.	Apr 18, 2011 7:21 AM

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

1	<p>In my case people are too afraid to watch my daughter as they cannot take care of her 24/7 needs and are just afraid of being responsible for her, and it's not as simple as watching a cute child who can take a nap and eat whatever she wants and you can do whatever you need to with your day. She doesn't walk well, doesn't talk, her blood sugars have to be monitored, her free water intake has to be monitored every bowel movement/urine output must be monitored, amounts of food and eye ointments, and therapies (3x a week.) And it takes a lot of understanding medication and what to look for and how to deal with it. She is non-verbal, diabetic. The only person willing to help me was my mother in law. And even she cannot watch my daughter over night or past 8 pm as there are medications that have to be given and she draws the line at being responsible for this set of medications. I am military and sometimes am required to work shift work with little notice. And it becomes a challenge if my mother in law cannot watch my daughter. I have no one else. It's not that they don't want to help. They just don't feel capable enough to help. It's medication, food types, sign language, responses, schedules, logs. And they just can't keep up with it. I am very blessed to have someone who is willing to try to learn even if they get it wrong, they bounce back instead of giving up. But I know many many people have to quit work to care for their children because no one can take on the full time responsibility. If I didn't need the income to afford for my other children, I would have to stay at home with her. Even though she is self moving and able to feed herself. The amount of 'other care' that is needed goes beyond what a daycare would be able to handle but doesn't qualify for in home nursing care programs. And I can't afford a medically trained Nanny.</p>	Apr 13, 2011 10:56 PM
2	<p>Family have proven unwilling and unable to assist competently with any level of care. Neighbors and others who are not professional caregivers are not consistently available in our situation despite our participation in a close knit community that creates a lot of natural supports for non-disabled children and community members.</p>	Apr 14, 2011 12:20 PM
3	<p>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.</p>	Apr 14, 2011 12:29 PM
4	<p>What does natural supports even mean? We have no disposable income. We do pay for health insurance and we take advantage of it all the time, but it does not provide for therapeutic benefits like PT, OT, and speech therapy.</p>	Apr 15, 2011 8:46 AM
5	<p>Friends and neighbors are the best supports that you can think of. If they are willing to help out and understand the disability, life will be lot easier for the disabled and his/her parents/caregivers.</p>	Apr 15, 2011 1:41 PM
6	<p>Food allergies are still not very well known and people don't understand their severity and that they are a disability, even to those closest to you, your "natural supports." It is hard to trust other people, even those closest, to really understand how to keep your child safe. It means that my husband and I rarely get to do things outside of our home and taking care of our child. There are very few support groups for food allergies and little to no "training." What you learn you have to seek out yourself.</p>	Apr 18, 2011 10:02 AM
7	<p>I have family but I feel they are not capable of caring for my little girl. It is very hard to navigate the world of caregivers to find someone appropriate to help with her when we need it.</p>	Apr 18, 2011 10:40 AM

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

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|---|--|-----------------------|
| 8 | My natural supports often make me feel as though I don't need their help, when actually I do. I can use their help to give myself a small break every once in a while. | Apr 19, 2011 1:00 PM |
| 9 | "natural supports" is fine, but should not be considered a replacement for the services that my child needs or may need in the future. expecting "natural supports" to provide these services when i do not have these "natural supports" is irrational. the services needed should be provided moreso because the "natural supports" are not available or attainable to me. | Apr 20, 2011 12:24 PM |