



## Karen Kaplan Education Consultant

Consulting in the Sacramento, Greater San Francisco Bay Area & Internationally

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Education professional with a rare and deep understanding of autism spectrum and other developmental learning challenges, research, interventions and resources, organization development, operation efficiencies, 501c3 structure and regulatory requirements that are key in building and maintaining an effective and sustainable school. Astute and compassionate leader, seeking meaningful projects and consulting opportunities.

### Experience:

Seminar Leader, Author, Lecturer, Educator, Mentor, Trainer, Facilitator, Speaker, Speech Therapist, Autism Spectrum Expert.

### Experience

**\*2010 to present:** Consultant to schools, Directors of Special Education, Adult day centers, non-profit organizations, families, and community businesses open to expanding their knowledge and capacity for supporting those who learn differently.

**\*2011 – 2021 Executive Director Offerings**, Novato, CA: A non-profit organization helping build capacity locally and globally to support children and adults with autism and developmental learning challenges. Develops and coordinates Autism Special Needs Annual Conferences and The Autism Awesomeness Annual Celebration • Active in Indonesia and Africa educating and mentoring local professionals and parents who love, care or provide services for special needs.

• **2010 - 2020 Executive Director Wings Learning Center**, Redwood City, CA School providing educational and therapeutic services for Autism Spectrum Disorders Ensure mission and vision of school

- Ensure mission and vision of school
- Reduced operating deficit from \$100K annually to \$0
- Responsible for budgeting, contracting, and strategic plan development
- Responsible for licensing, certification, development, and outreach
- Oversee hiring, training and supervision of faculty and staff
- Oversee admissions and discharge

**\*2002 - 2008 Executive Director Oak Hill School**, San Anselmo, CA School providing education and therapy to children with autism spectrum and developmental learning challenges

- Head of school reporting to the Board of Directors
- Streamlined operations reducing annual cost per student from \$125K to \$65K
- Liaison to State Department of Education and Community Care Licensing
- Responsible for supervision, recruiting, hiring, and training of faculty and staff
- Responsible for budgeting and

contracting • Head of Student Admissions • Oversaw after school program and community outreach • Partnered with Development Department writing grants and promoting events

**\*1999 - 2002 Director of Education and Vocation Stanford Home for Children** Program serving emotional, behavioral and learning challenged students • Oversaw special Education Services • Liaison to State Department of Education • Coordinated Curriculum Development • Supervised Educational Team/Vocational Team • Participated in Strategic Planning • Co-directed Intensive Day-Treatment Program • Hiring and training of faculty members • Participated on Foster Youth/Judicial Committee • Lead Team in all facets of program development and service expansion

**\*1980 - 1999 Founder/Director Kaplan Foundation**, Orangevale, CA Residential school for children with autism spectrum disorders. • Designed, developed and implemented educational and residential program • Reported to the Board of Directors • Hired, trained and supervised educational and residential team • Maintained critical documentation and records • Liaison between school and State Dept. of Ed, Community Care Licensing • Functioned as a child and family advocate • Worked collaboratively with public school districts and outside agencies • Provided workshops and training for families • Completed annual reports and summaries • Oversaw assessment and evaluation procedures

**\*1975 - 1980 Special Education Teacher Sacramento Unified School District**, Sacramento, CA Elementary and secondary public school program for children with autism spectrum disorders • Designed and implemented IEPs (individual education plans) • Assessed students • Provided training support to the team • Designed curriculum • Completed Documentation • Provided education, training and support to families • Worked collaboratively with general education program • Provided consultation to other programs in district

## Education

Arizona State University Bachelor's in Speech Pathology Arizona State University Master's in Speech Pathology California Special Education Teaching Credential California Speech Therapy Credential

## Trainings

SCERTS (Social Communication Emotional Regulation Transactional Supports), TEACCH (Structured Teaching) Behavior Intervention Case Management, Summer Institute of Neurological Disorders UCD, Therapeutic Crisis Intervention, Social Thinking by Michelle Garcia Winner, Assistive Technology, Prompt Technology, Non-Profit Leadership, Executive Director/Board Collaboration, Strategic Planning

## Affiliations:

Advisory Council Living Unlimited 2020-2021, Board Trustee Jessica's Haven (2015-present), Board Trustee Parents Can (2006- 2008), Member and Founder of Marin Autism Collaborative (2007-2011), Board Trustee California Association for Private Special Education Schools (1999 to 2007), Autism Society of America, Council for Exceptional Children, People to People Delegation Special Needs Cuba & China (2006)

Articles Published in [Autism Parent Magazine](#) 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 Articles Published in [Exceptional Needs Magazine](#), 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 Author: [On The Yellow Brick Road...My Search for Home & Hope the child with autism](#) [On the Yellow Brick Road: My Search for Home and Hope for the Child with Autism: Kaplan, Karen: 9780999313503: Amazon.com: Books](#)