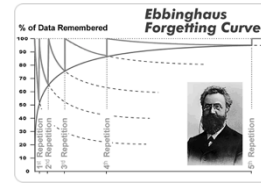


Handouts can be downloaded from
www.texasautism.com

INTRODUCTION TO THE HIDDEN CURRICULUM

BRENDA SMITH MYLES

THE FORGETTING CURVE



- People tend to forget at least one-half of what they learned over days or weeks if it is not actively rehearsed.

2

HIDDEN CURRICULUM

- The set of unwritten rules that no one has been directly taught, but everyone knows. Violations of these rules can make an individual a social outcast.
- Phrase associated with hidden curriculum:
 - "I shouldn't have to tell you but ..."
 - "Everyone knows that ..."
 - "It's obvious ..."

3

HIDDEN CURRICULUM

- Differs across
 - Age
 - Who you are with
 - Gender
 - Culture
- Applies to
 - Home
 - School
 - Community
 - Work
 - College
 - Legal system
 - Everything!!!!

4

THE HIDDEN CURRICULUM INCLUDES ...

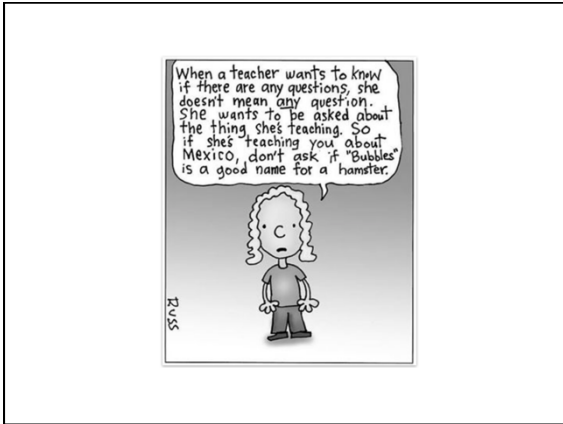
- Idioms
- Metaphors
- Definitions:
 - Rules (not only for games)
 - Directions (not only for driving)
 - Emergencies
 - *What exactly is an emergency?*

5

HIDDEN CURRICULUM ITEMS

- If one small incident occurs and the teacher corrects you, it does not mean the entire day is bad.
- You should talk to teachers in a pleasant tone of voice because they will respond to you in a more positive manner. They also like it if you smile every once in a while.

6



OTHER HIDDEN CURRICULUM AREAS

- Airplane/airport
- Friends
- Eating
- Public/private swimming pools
- School rules
- Bathroom/shower/locker room

8

WHAT ELSE SHOULD BE TAUGHT?

9

THE BUBBLE LIST

• Write a check	• Check the oil
• Pay a bill	• Shave with a razor
• Make travel arrangements	• With cash from an ATM
• Navigate an airport, train, or bus station	• Pay for dinner
• Take a taxi	• Self-prescribe over the counter medications
• Catch the subway	• Call a doctor
• Plunge a toilet	• Cook a meal
	• Cancel a membership

THE BUBBLE LIST

• Buy clothes	• Sew a button
• Return a purchase	• Replace a fuse
• Pack a suitcase	• Remove a splinter
• Do the laundry	• Enjoy a drink responsibly
• Iron a shirt	• Say "no" with confidence
• Go food shopping for themselves	• When hurting and in doubt, call home
• Negotiate a deal	
• Make hospital corners	

THE BUBBLE LIST

• Jump a car with cables	• Understand how to use credit cards and use them responsibly
• Address an envelope	• Be able to spot a bad situation and be able to remove yourself
• Pay bills and rent on time	• Ask for help
• Do your tax returns	• Admit when you made a mistake
• Clean up your own mess	
• Balance a check book	
• Create and follow a budget	

Mendell, 2014