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SCCA VIRTUAL SCHOOL VS. BRICK AND MORTAR SCHOOLS FOR THE AUTISTIC STUDENT

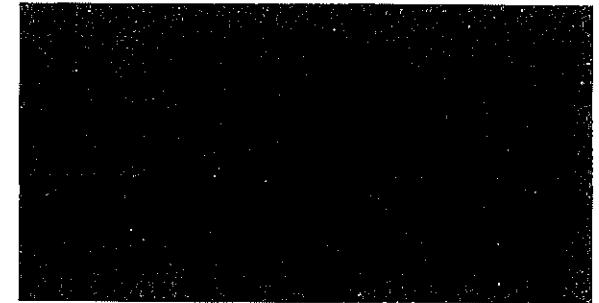
This short news story is going to tell you about SCCA virtual school and why it may be better than a brick and mortar school for the Autistic student. SCCA is known as South Carolina Connections Academy it's HOME is in Columbia, SC. It is a public virtual school that the state of SC pays for. They have lots of different Connection Academies across the United States. Some states pay and some do not. If you want your Autistic student to go and your state does not pay you can go to just a Connections Academy. I think SCCA does a great job with the Autistic student. This is my view, I am one of their Autistic students.

Connections Academy is a great school that you can go to from home. It is a good school for Autistic Kids. You do not have to be scared about lots of classmates and what they act like to you. You can do your classes and subjects in any order you like or how it is easier for you. Classes do not have lots of noises or smells to overload your senses.

(CONT) PAGE 2

First you do not have to worry about lots of other kids always being around you. If you are in a virtual school kids can not stare at you. You will not feel like a million eyes are always looking at you. You also are not afraid a billion ears are listening to your words. So if you get things wrong nobody makes fun of you. You just learn from your nice teachers and your Mom or they call her a coach. No more kids can bully or make fun of you. No more eating alone or playing at recess alone. You can find friends like you to play with. These friends like you. You can still talk to lots of kids in live lessons every day. You see lots and lots of new and old friends on field trips. These kids are from the whole state sometimes. You can talk to people anywhere anytime without getting nervous. I like all the clubs and reading my friends messages in live lessons before class begins.

You can do your work in the order you want just as long as all your work gets done. You are able to learn better and understand better because you can ask questions without being embarrassed or nervous. You can do your work anytime day or night. You just need to make sure you go

**(CONT.) PAGE 3**

to your live lesson when your teacher is having class. If you want to get ahead you can but try to keep up because the work is really hard if you get behind it can be scary. Anyone who thinks virtual school is easy they are wrong. But virtual school is real fun. I like to learn now. They have lots of clubs and extra courses if you keep up with your school work. I have learned chess and sign language. Now I am learning robotics, Spanish and extra math stuff. My favorite part of this school is you do lots with computers. Most Autistic kids love computers and many learn better on computers. Lots of educational movies, shows and interactive stuff.

Connections Academy doesn't have loud noises and smelly things that distract my brain and make me crazy. You can exercise at home or outside instead of the loud gym that echoes and scares me. Gyms and cafeterias drive many Autistic kids crazy. You do not have to smell all the yucky smells of the cafeteria or hear all those loud voices talking at one time and the trays all clanking and making a racket. That all makes me feel sick. You can eat at home or your favorite restaurant and still do class work while

(CONT.) PAGE 4

enjoying lunch. Autistic kids think it is hard to concentrate in a brick and mortar classroom. The decorations, fidgety kids, fire alarms, overhead speakers people interrupting class all the time, this is what is crazy in a regular class. I can't learn. Many times you never know what to expect everything changes without warning, that is scary for kids like me.

Connections academy is extra cool for Autistic kids. I know because I am Autistic. This school makes you less nervous. You know what to expect, smell and feel. This all makes it easier and lots more fun to learn. I get to learn from teachers on line and in person on field trips. My Mom is my learning coach. She is able to teach me better because she loves me and I know her and she knows me so I know what to expect. My name is Seph Koutsioukis and I am Autistic, my opinion is SCCA is the best school for many Autistic and regular kids. Why don't you give it a try.