Marriage
Moms to Dads: Get involved. Stay involved. Acknowledge her work, listen.
For Dads: Define roles, make a plan, realize men act and react differently.
No ego parenting. Lead, follow or get out of the way. Make time away from autism.

Siblings
Make special time for other kids.
Siblings should not be raised to be caregivers.
Don’t expend all resources on ASD kid, leaving nothing for siblings.

Home
Physical safety, locks, fences.
Durable, easy to clean furniture and décor.
Use non-toxic cleaners and furnishings.

Extended Family
Prep them for proper expectations, how to relate.
Holidays, travel, and gatherings.
Gifts to go into Special Needs Trust.

Getting Organized
Use a journal to track progress.
Get and scan all documents before they are destroyed.
Get one credit card just for autism related purchases to help track and for taxes.

Divorce
Build a Special Needs Trust and wills.
Plan for the worst, hope for the best. Put it all in writing.
Decide who decides - educational and medical.

A visual foundation of best practices for your child
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1. Marriage – Keeping it together!
   a. Moms to Dads: Dads need to be involved, stay involved.
      Let her vent. Acknowledge her work.
   b. For Dads: Define roles. Make a 2-year plan. Realize men
      and women deal with things differently.
   c. For both: Give each other time away from autism,
      teamwork, split the effort, talk and listen. No ego
      parenting.

2. Siblings – don’t forget the other kids
   a. Make special time just for them.
   b. Don’t expend all resources on ASD child.
   c. Don’t raise siblings to be responsible for ASD kid.

3. Home environment – Decorating for autism
   a. Safety - Install double-sided deadbolts, window locks and
      alarms, fence the yard, triple-secure the pool.
   b. In the home – check for mold, replace toxic cleaners,
      carpets, bedding, pots and bottles.
   c. Decorating – replace fragile items with durable furniture
      and window coverings. Use nontoxic paint.

4. Extended family
   a. Prepare them for proper expectations and how to interact
      with your child.
   b. Holidays, travel and special events may need to be
      adjusted to suit your child.
   c. All monetary gifts should go to a Special Needs Trust for
      your ASD child.

5. Getting organized, tracking child’s progress
   a. Use a journal to track your child’s progress and new
      treatments.
   b. Scan all documents and burn to CD when starting new
      practitioner
      i. Get an auto-document feeder attachment for your
         scanner
      ii. Get copies of all past doctor and therapist visits
         before they are destroyed
   c. Get one credit card just for autism-related purchases to
      help track spending and easy tax submittal.

6. Divorce – if all else fails.
   a. Build a Special Needs Trust and wills for both parents.
      Funnel all insurance into it.
   b. Hope for the best, plan for the worst. Get it all in writing.
   c. Decide who decides
      i. Educational and Medical decision making is key.
      Get it in writing.
   d. [http://www.tacanow.org/family-resources/divorce-advice-for-special-needs-families/](http://www.tacanow.org/family-resources/divorce-advice-for-special-needs-families/)