

# IDENTIFYING REPUTABLE RESOURCES AND RESEARCH TIPS



[www.puentesenlinea.com](http://www.puentesenlinea.com)

There are many reliable sources of information available, just be sure to keep in mind the following when reviewing literature to provide additional information for parents:

## Type of source

Large, professionally developed websites are more likely to contain reputable information. These include websites of government agencies, universities, hospitals, and nonpartisan national advocacy organizations.

- Examples of credible information sources:
  - » Official government websites (e.g., CDC.gov, HHS.gov)
  - » Universities and hospitals (e.g., hopkinsmedicine.org, mayoclinic.org)
  - » National advocacy organizations (e.g., American Academy of Pediatrics, American Medical Association)

Academic journals are also reliable sources of information because all articles have undergone a rigorous independent evaluation by other experts in the field.

- Examples of journal sources:
  - » Journal of American Medical Association, American Journal of Public Health

## Author's background

Information that is written by someone with a degree or credentials appropriate to the subject is more credible than information without a named author. Even without a specific author listed, information from government agencies, universities, hospitals, and nonpartisan national advocacy organizations is more likely to be accurate and reliable than from a source without a listed author.

## Publication date

Look at the date that the source was produced or when the website was last updated. The information may appear to be from a credible source, but if it has not been updated recently, the information may be outdated or inaccurate.

## Objectivity

Be cautious when reviewing information from sources that are emotionally or financially connected to the subject. This includes blogs, web forums, and individual sites. Although parents and teachers may share interesting personal experiences about managing a child with special health care needs, the information they provide may not have been evaluated to assess its accuracy or efficacy for all children.