

What ARJE Membership Has Done for Me

As we enter July, we have the opportunity to renew our membership. The cost of membership is substantial. Here are three ways ARJE has benefited me:

1. ARJE enhances my career by connecting me to opportunities to grow. Learn, and discover resources.
2. ARJE is where I have found colleagues who understand my work and a network of individuals to talk to when things are hard or unclear.
3. ARJE members and its CEO have supported me through challenges and transitions

I encourage you to support this organization and dig into all it has to offer.

It's not always easy to form connections, especially when you are just starting out in a field. Initially, a friend connected me to an ARJE member to help me down the path. Realizing how helpful having colleagues could be, I decided to call several educators in the surrounding towns and set up a time to have coffee or lunch. This helped me feel like I was part of a group of people doing similar work to what I was doing. They responded positively, often indicating how much they appreciated the invitation. As my career went through twists and turns, it was really helpful to get references for materials or trainers or procedures from other educators. I felt like I could turn to the Facebook group to help me process an interaction with an upset parent, a disagreement with another member of our staff, or a barrier imposed by a lay leader. When I need ideas, I find Facebook files (and now the material posted in the member hub on the website) to give me inspiration.

Beyond our colleagues, being about to call Stacy Rigler when I needed to speak to someone confidentially has been a true benefit. If you have a moment like I did where you didn't know who to call or where to turn, I will really encourage you to reach out to Stacy. She listened, provided understanding insights, gave good advice, and served as a guide.

Sometimes in this work we feel alone. ARJE is our opportunity to be more connected. I hope you will take advantage of the resources and make an effort to benefit from its services.

Stefanie Ben Simon

ARJE Member