

The CRAAP Test

Your guide to website evaluation

Ms. Mitchell


English 9H

Why Evaluate Web Sources?

- ❑ *Anyone with a little time, some knowledge and small amount of money can publish on the Internet.*
 - ❑ *There is little control over much of what is posted, so that virtually anyone can create a web site on any topic.*
 - ❑ *No person, persons or organization reviews the content of the Internet.*
 - ❑ *Pages are retrieved by search engines based on the page's content, not the relevancy or quality of the page.*
 - ❑ *Much information on the Web is not updated regularly.*
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- When you search the Web for information, you're going to find lots of it. . . Almost **too** much.
- *Is the information accurate and reliable?*
- You will have to determine this for yourself, and the **CRAAP Test** can help.

Surfing The Web



The **CRAAP Test** is a list of questions to determine if the information you have is reliable.

- It is not static or complete.
 - Different criteria will be more or less important depending on your situation or need.
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So, what are you waiting for?

**Is your web site credible and useful,
or is it a bunch of . . .?!**

- When was the info published or posted?
- Has it been revised or updated?
- Is the info current or out-of-date?
- Are the links functional?

<http://www.breastcancer.org/>

CURRENCY

Exploring current knowledge on Asperger syndrome and best practices for school-based intervention.

Buettel, Monica P.¹

School Psychology Quarterly. Vol. 27(3), 2006, pp. 349-357

27. McWilliam, R. A., Lang, L., Vandivere, P. & Angell, R. (1995). Satisfaction and struggles: Family perceptions of early intervention. *Journal of Early Intervention*, 19, 43-60.

[Abstract](#) | [Cited by 35](#)

28. Mulick, J. A. & Butter, E. M. (2002). Educational advocacy for children with autism. *Behavioral Interventions*, 17, 54-74.

[Cited by 2](#)

CHILDREN'S BUREAU

Safety · Permanency · Well-being

[Home](#) > [Laws & Policies](#) > [Policy/Program Issuances](#) > [Program Instructions](#) > PI-10-11

ACF Administration For Children and Families	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES Administration on Children, Youth and Families	
	1. Log No.: ACYF-CB-PI-10-11	2. Issuance Date: July 9, 2010
	3. Originating Office: Children's Bureau	
	4. Key Words: Guidance on Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008	

Currency



- Does the **info** relate to your topic or answer your research question?
- Who is the **intended audience**?
- Is the info at the **appropriate level**?
- Have you looked at a **variety of sources**?

[Google search: homeschooling](#)

RELEVANCE

What audience might find this web site relevant?

<http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/autism/DS00348/>

Autism

Basics

In-Depth

Expert
Answers

Resources

 Print  Share  Reprints

 Definition

Symptoms

Causes

Risk factors

Preparing for your
appointment

Tests and diagnosis

Treatments and drugs

Alternative medicine

Definition

By Mayo Clinic staff

Autism is one of a group of serious developmental problems called autism spectrum disorders (ASD) that appear in early childhood — usually before age 3. Though symptoms and severity vary, all autism disorders affect a child's ability to communicate and interact with others.

The number of children diagnosed with autism appears to be rising. It's not clear whether this is due to better detection and reporting of autism, a real increase in the number of cases, or both.

Relevance



- Who is the **author/publisher/sponsor**?
- Are the author's **credentials** or organizational affiliations given?
- Is there **contact info** for the author/organization?
- What is the **domain of the site**? Good site examples: **.com .edu .gov .org .net**

<http://www.martinlutherking.org/>

AUTHORITY

- Where does the **info** come from?
- Is the info **supported by evidence**?
- Has the info been **reviewed or refereed**?
- Can you **verify the info** in another source?
- Does the **language** seem biased or free from emotion?

<http://www.justfacts.com/guncontrol.asp>

ACCURACY

Introduction

Parenting a preschool child with developmental disabilities may be a source of significant stress. Research findings show that the level of parenting stress is higher in parents of preschool children with developmental problems than in parents of typically developing children (e.g. Baker *et al.* 1997, 2002, 2003; Tomanik *et al.* 2004; Spratt *et al.* 2007).

The burdens faced by parents are particularly

Is information supported by evidence?

Accuracy

References

- American Psychiatric Association (APA) (1994) *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, 4th edn. Author, Washington.
- Bailey A., Palferman S., Heavey L. & Le Couteur A. (1998) Autism: the phenotype in relatives. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders* **28**, 369–92.
- Baker B. L., Blacher J., Kopp C. B. & Kraemer B. (1997) Parenting children with mental retardation. *International Review of Research in Mental Retardation* **20**, 1–45.



- Does the **info attempt to inform**? Teach? Sell? Entertain? Persuade?
- Does the **author make his intentions or purpose clear**?
- Is the **info fact**? Opinion? Propaganda?
- Does the **point of view appear objective and impartial**?

<http://www.peta.org/>

PURPOSE

BuyBooksOnAutism.com

Autism Books

At Buy Books on Autism we strive to bring you **the best resources available**. Each month we review different products from books on autism, educational toys, communication products, curriculum

[Autism Research](#)
Share your family's experiences online with autism researchers.
[IANProject.org](#)

- [Types of Therapy](#)
- [Curriculum Review](#)
- [How to Modify Curriculum](#)
- [Sensory Integration](#)
- [Homeschooling](#)
- [In Home Program](#)
- [Resources](#)
- [Contact](#)

What is the **purpose** of most .com websites?



“Gut Test”

When considering if your website is a good source don't forget the simple **Gut Test**– **your first impression** after skimming a site's homepage or content .

Think about whether you are the **victim of spoof, fraud, or other falsehood.**


If on your first viewing a site seems...

- biased or advocating a particular agenda
- factually wrong or treating opinion as fact
- Full of spelling or grammatical errors
- kooky, warped, crazy, sick, depraved, or just plain old wrong

...then it is probably not a reliable source of research information.

- Ask yourself if the web is truly the best place to find the resources you need for your research.
- The very best resource is a human resource
- Ask a reference librarian!
- Think like a detective...have fun! 😊

Remember....

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- What did you learn that built upon what you already know about evaluating sources?
 - How might you use some of these strategies to ensure that in the future, you evaluate sources effectively?

What did you learn?
