

# Connections

A Newsletter For Teachers Working With Autism  
Educational Equity For All



March 2020



## Social Interaction – Using the Environment

Manipulating the environment to increase interactions between students can be a simple and successful strategy. The following pictures demonstrate how to arrange materials for activities that can change from being solitary to being interactive.



Using legos give each student a different color of blocks and a picture of a design to construct.

The design incorporates more than one color.



This visual cue prompts a student To say, “Please pass, (color) block”

The student who gives a block has a visual cue to prompt : “Do you want a big one or a small one?”

This environmental set-up can be used with endless materials for activities. The key is organizing, providing needed supports, and manipulating the materials.

<https://www.thewatsoninstitute.org/resource/social-interaction/>



Don't miss the next Sensory Friendly Film!



ONWARD  
3/11 & 3/14,  
2020



I STILL BELIEVE  
3/25/2020



MULAN  
3/28/2020

### Movie Showings for Guests & Families Living with Autism or Other Special Needs

AMC is proud to partner with the Autism Society to bring you unique movie showings where you can feel free to be you! We turn the lights up, and turn the sound down, so you can get up, dance, walk, shout or sing!

We are now expanding our Sensory Friendly Film program to four showings per month.

- The second and fourth Tuesday and Saturday.
- Family-friendly movies will continue to show Saturdays, starting at 10am local time
- We've added Tuesday showings at 7pm local time that may appeal to others on the autism spectrum.

Tickets are \$4-6 depending on location and can be purchased on the day of the event. To find a participating theater:

<https://www.amctheatres.com/programs/sensory-friendly-films>

EDUCATIONAL  
EQUITY FOR ALL  
..... Giving kids what they need to succeed.

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## FEATURED IDEA OF THE MONTH



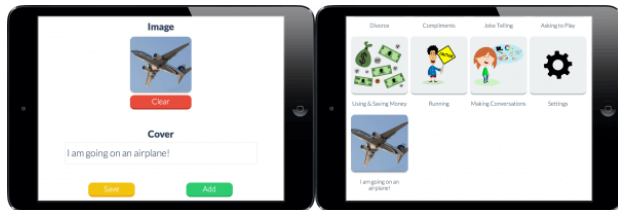
**Language Builder®**  
Free 4+

[Stages Publishing](#)

The Language Builder Free App includes TWO core autism education activities with infinitely

customizable presentations.

Professionally designed, used by Therapists, Teachers & Parents to teach children with autism, speech-language delay or special needs. You design the lessons: customize speech or text commands, card positions, prompts and prompt fading, target & distractor words, reinforcers, & more.



## Free Social Stories Creator & Library

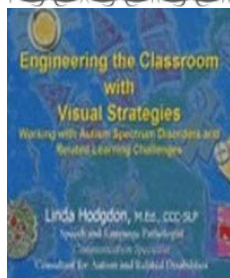
An app for creating & sharing social stories, visual schedules & beautiful memories.

### Create Social Stories & Visual Schedules

Our easy to use interface will have you creating and saving your own social stories or visual schedules (for free!) in no time. From the “home” screen tap the “new social story button.” You can then choose a photo for your cover and a title for your story. Press “add” at the bottom of the page to add a page to the story. Add as many pages as you’d like with your photos, words and audio. You can always save a story and come back to edit it later as well. Your unique social stories will be saved on the home screen to be played back again and again! You can have up to 2 stories saved on the device for free. This should let you know if you enjoy the interface, and the way the stories look and if you are interested in upgrading for more storage, or other features.

### Download Social Stories From the App

<http://touchautism.com/app/social-stories-creator-library/>



Engineering the Classroom with Visual Strategies (DVD)  
Crucial steps to help you establish a basic framework of visual tools for any classroom. Works in any environment and any age.

<https://usevisualstrategies.com/autism-products/>

## WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

[t.ly/1VbmA](http://t.ly/1VbmA)

<http://www.angelspeaks.com/>

<http://trainland.tripod.com/pecc.htm>



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

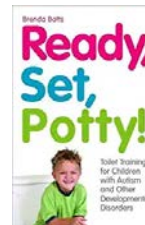
**U** Thompson Center for Autism & Neurodevelopmental Disorders  
University of Missouri

The Thompson Center offers five FREE online autism training modules to individuals wanting to learn more about autism. The five full-length modules provide information on topics such as autism in young children, the screening and referral process, evidence-based practices and interventions, transition to adulthood, and building the family/professional partnership.

[t.ly/3GPgw](http://t.ly/3GPgw)



## RECOMMENDED READING & VIDEO



Ready, Set, Potty!: Toilet Training for Children with Autism and Other Developmental Disorders

By Brenda Batts

## Tips of the Day - Food

- Avoid too much chocolate and sweets.
- Use the one-bite method to introduce new foods: After one bite of new food, your child gets a bite of a favorite food; alternate bites until the plate is empty.
- If your child likes ketchup, add it to new foods you are introducing.
- Make sure your child is hungry before offering new or non-preferred foods.
- To keep family mealtime enjoyable, give preferred foods.
- Use fold-top sandwich bags that can be opened easily in packed lunches.
- Slightly tear packages in packed lunches for easy opening.

\*Tips taken from "The Child with Autism Series" by Kathy Labosh

## Autism News online

- Autism Awareness Action on initiatives.
- Autism Conferences
- Autism Conferences list maintained by Future Horizons
- Autism Key
- Autism Today
- Autism Watch
- AutismConnect
- In the News... page of the Autism Society of America website.