

Connections

A Newsletter For Teachers Working With Autism
Educational Equity For All



December 2019



Autism Navigator is a unique collection of web-based tools and courses that uses extensive

video footage to bridge the gap between science and community practice.

Autism Navigator courses offer a rare collection of videos of toddlers with autism at 18–24 months, so you can learn what autism looks like before it is usually diagnosed.

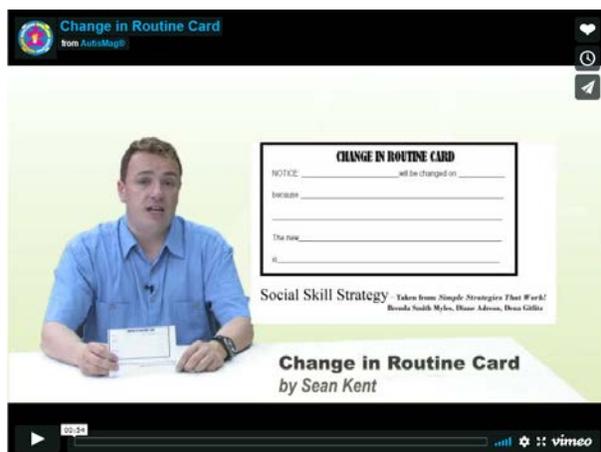
- Autism Navigator® ASD Video Glossary
- Autism Navigator® About Autism in Toddlers (Professional Development Version)
- Autism Navigator® for Classroom Success in PreK to 2nd Grade

<https://autismnavigator.com/courses/#professionals>



Help your child handle changes in routine.

Kids with Autism often struggle with Changes in Routine and while transitioning between activities. Use this change in routine strategy.



https://www.autism360club.com/change-in-routine?r_done=1



Don't miss the next Sensory Friendly Film!



FORD V
FERRARI
12/10/19



FROZEN 2
12/14/19



STAR WARS: THE
RISE OF
SKYWALKER
12/24/19 & 12/28/19

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



Spiky Glove
The spiky glove looks scary, but it's made of a soft, stretchy nontoxic

to manipulate and touch. Just put on the spiky glove and use it during handwriting for increased proprioceptive input and deep pressure. Or, just play with it for some great tactile fun. Gloves come in assorted bright colors. Use the spiky glove for tactile stimulation, deep pressure, or to provide additional sensory feedback while writing. The bright colors and soft spines entice even the **most** reluctant child to give it a try. t.ly/6mJJB



Building flexibility and predictability into classroom routines this holiday season

It is important to build flexibility into your usual classroom schedule by explaining to students that sometimes the schedule will change and teaching them how you will indicate when a change occurs.

Having a consistent icon for change is an easy way to let students know that a change in routine will happen that day. A change icon can be placed directly on to your existing schedule and may be in reference to a particular activity or time at which an activity takes place. Change icons are especially helpful for unexpected changes and are applicable in a variety of situations year round, so don't wait to introduce the symbol to your students!

Attachment 1 below provides examples of symbols for change that you can print and use in your classroom.

Continue to reference your regular classroom schedule to show students the shape of the day

Even though you may be spending the whole morning building gingerbread houses, it is important to review your usual daily schedule before getting started. Though the activities listed will be different, students can still get a sense of how long activities will last and be reassured that some aspects of their day will remain consistent, such as recess and lunch. t.ly/ILPjB

Christmas Presents

A social narrative to help individuals understand social expectations when receiving presents.

URL: <https://www.iidc.indiana.edu/styles/iidc/defiles/IRCA/ChristmasPresents.pdf>

WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

t.ly/vLY9W

t.ly/qyYvD

<http://www.paulakluth.com/books-and-products/>



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Autism Focused Intervention Resources & Modules

Many interventions exist for autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Yet, scientific research has found only some of these interventions to be effective. The interventions that researchers have shown to be effective are called evidence-based practices (EBPs). AFIRM Modules are designed to help you learn the step-by-step process of planning for, using, and monitoring an EBP with learners with ASD from birth to 22 years of age. Supplemental materials and handouts are available for download.

Download an overview of the Components of AFIRM to learn about modules, resources, and professional development options.

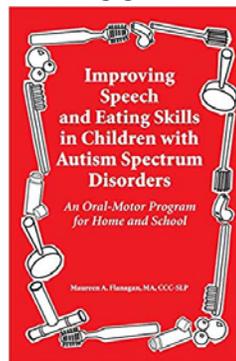
Visit the Learn with AFIRM section to find out more.

To learn more about an ongoing update of the EBPs, check out the National Clearinghouse on Autism Evidence and Practice website.

<https://afirm.fpg.unc.edu/afirm-modules>

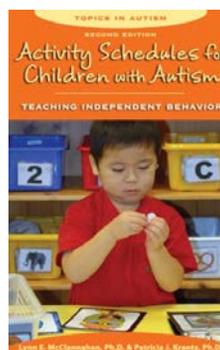


RECOMMENDED READING & VIDEO



Improving Speech and Eating Skills in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders - An Oral Motor Program for Home and School

This is a great resource to help broaden foods in a child's diet and expand a child's sounds and words!



Activity Schedules for Children With Autism, Second Edition: Teaching Independent Behavior (Topics in Autism)

ACTIVITY SCHEDULES will show thousands of parents and service providers how to use this teaching tool to help children and adults successfully engage in self-directed and purposeful activities.