

Connections

A Newsletter For Teachers Working With Autism
Educational Equity For All



April 2020



Don't miss the next Sensory Friendly Film!



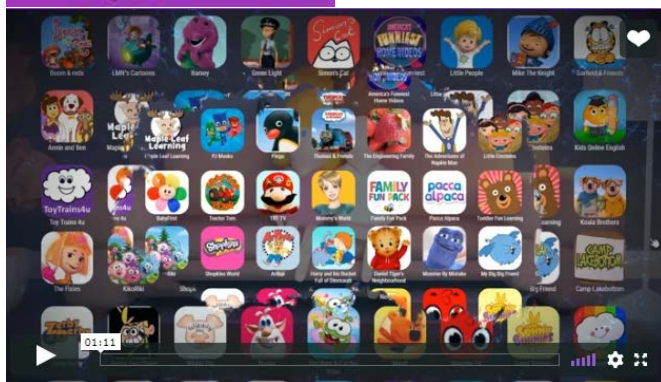
Task Ideas and Freebies

We look forward to sharing teaching activity ideas with you. We hope to provide a series of task ideas regularly along with PDF files of activities you can download and produce yourself!

<http://www.buildingblox.net/taskideasandfreebies.html>

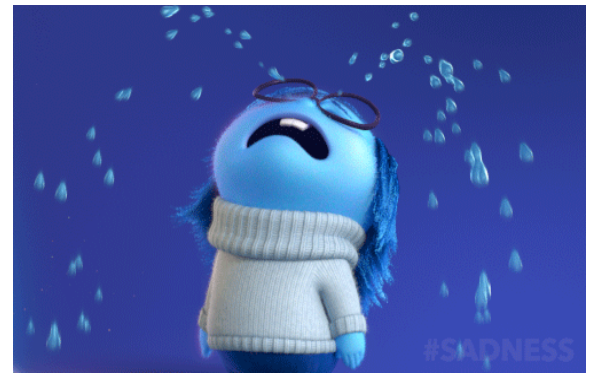


<https://zacbrowser.com/download>



Zac auto-updates weekly with new content specially selected for children with autism. This means children will never reach the end of the opportunities and enjoyment Zac can offer. Subscribe to the Zac Browser Youtube Channel for the latest news:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiQaMzI5jOqgsPpDr6 QEw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiQaMzI5jOqgsPpDr6QEw)



Until further notice Sensory Friendly Events have been postponed

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

Scratch-and-Sniff Painting



Scratch-and-sniff painting appeals to kids' visual, tactile, and olfactory (smell) senses. Choose a few flavors of Jell-O based on your

child's color and smell preferences. Use a different plastic cup for each color. Mix 1 tablespoon of white glue, 1 tablespoon of water and 1 teaspoon of Jell-O powder in each cup. (The glue helps the gelatin granules stick.)

t.ly/GBE9r

6 Low-Cost Ways to Create a Sensory-Friendly Chair

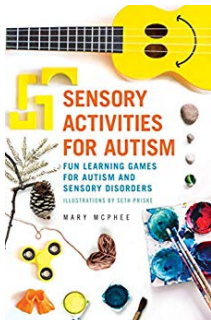
Sitting on a regular seat can be tough for kids with [sensory processing issues](#) or attention issues. They may [need sensory input](#) to stay focused and comfortable while seated. Products like wobbly chairs and exercise balls can be expensive, however. Here are low-cost ideas for making a [sensory-friendly](#) seat for your child.



- Pool Noodle Seat
- Foot Roller
- Exercise or Bouncy Ball

t.ly/kJmRD

RECOMMENDED READING & VIDEO

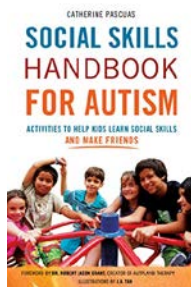


Sensory Activities for Autism: Fun Learning Games for Autism and Sensory Disorders

A must-have for any education professional, therapist, or parent looking to make learning fun!

Social Skills Handbook for Autism: Activities to Help Kids Learn Social Skills and Make Friends (Autism Spectrum Disorder, Autism Books)

More than 50 engaging strategies and ideas to help kids develop social skills, make friends, and have fun.



WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

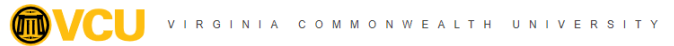
t.ly/bJX9A

<https://www.andnextcomes1.com/2015/02/25-sensory-hacks-for-kids-autism.html>

<https://autismeducators.com/>



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



VCU Autism Center for Excellence

EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES

Courses

[Evidence-Based Practices to Teach Students with ASD](#)
[Strategies for Supporting Positive Behavior in Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder](#)



Webcasts

[Implementation of Evidence Based Practice in the General Education School Setting](#)
[Research Based Intervention: Ensuring Program Quality for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder](#)
[Applied Behavior Analysis: Just the Facts](#)
[ABA=Good Teaching](#)



Seminars

[Introduction to the Use of Schedules with Individuals with ASD](#)
[Structuring the Environment and Tasks for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder](#)
[Visual Supports and Autism Spectrum Disorder](#)



How To Videos

[How To: Motivating the Individual with ASD](#)
[How To: Incorporating Strengths and Interests](#)
[How To: Providing Choices](#)
[How To: Token Economies](#)
[How To: Task Analysis](#)
[How To: Environmental Considerations - Routines](#)
[How To: Environmental Considerations - Schedules](#)
[How To: Environmental Considerations - Physical Structure](#)
[How To: Visual Supports](#)
[How To: Providing Reinforcement](#)
[How To: Model Prompting](#)
[How To: Verbal Prompting](#)
[How To: Visual Prompting](#)
[How To: Physical Prompting](#)
[How To: Gestural Prompting](#)

VCU-ACE has developed several fact sheets related to evidence-based practices:

[Autism Q and A: Designing Instructional Programs for Skill Acquisition](#)
[Autism Q and A: Facilitating Skill Acquisition Using Positive Reinforcement](#)
[Autism Q and A: Reinforcement Assessment](#)
[Autism Q and A: Using Prompts to Promote Skill Acquisition](#)

<https://vcuautismcenter.org/resources/EBP.cfm>