

Connections

A Newsletter For Teachers Working With Autism
Educational Equity For All



August 2016



BACK TO SCHOOL TIPS FOR TEACHERS: ASD

If you have a child with ASD in your classroom, a few basic strategies can help this child have a positive school year and allow your class to run smoothly.

1. Purposely build a positive relationship with the child. Where discipline is needed, ensure that he or she understands what behavior led to the consequence, and assure that there will be a fresh start the next day that does not bring up past infractions.
2. Plan the daily schedule to be structured and maintain consistency. Posting your schedule and discussing it frequently can help prevent unpleasant surprises and allows the child with ASD to mentally prepare for new activities and transitions.
3. Talk about the next day(s) before sending students home each afternoon and avoid surprises. If something needs to be a surprise for your entire class, find a way to prepare the child who has ASD for the surprise so that it can be pleasant instead of producing anxiety.
4. Revise assignment instructions so they are clear to the concrete thinker. For example, if you ask a child to write about what he or she learned from a particular reading passage, consider instead asking the child to write about what was meant to be learned from the reading passage. Chunk assignments into small and manageable pieces with due dates. Breaking things down into smaller parts will help lower anxiety and build success.
5. Give reasonable rewards and communicate them ahead of time. Working toward a goal is helpful for any child, but rewards can help children with ASD persevere through tasks they might find irrelevant or unpleasant.

<http://edutrendsonline.com/back-to-school-tips-for-teachers-autism-spectrum-disorder-level-1/>



Don't miss the next Sensory Friendly Film!



PETE'S
DRAGON
Saturday: 8/27



WAR DOGS
Tuesday: 8/23

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

5 AUTISM CLASSROOM LAYOUTS

And tips for creating your own



<http://www.autismclassroomresources.com/5-autism-classroom-layouts/>

CLASSROOM TIP

When teaching students to use visual schedules when they haven't used them before, don't feel you have to teach all of them at the same time. Teach the most independent student or subgroup first. When they get more independent, move to the next group. This allows more time to teach effectively.



WWW.AUTISMCLASSROOMNEWS.COM

Creating Chronologically and Developmental Age-Appropriate Skills: Examples of Spelling

Younger Students

- Spells words with magnets
- Spells words with playdough
- Spells words using pasta and glue
- Spells words written on the computer
- Spells names of other students in the class
- Spelling words with velcro letters on language master cards
- Spell name by stringing letters

Older Students

- Writes name on job application
- Spells name with letter stamps
- Spells names of other students on class roster
- Spells words on the computer
- Spells words related to recipe for rest of the class



www.autismclassroomnews.com

WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

http://www.autismspeaks.org/docs/family_services_docs/sk/General_Strategies.pdf

https://www.nea.org/assets/docs/Autism_Guide_final.pdf

http://www.researchautism.org/resources/oar_educatorsguide.pdf



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE WEBINARS

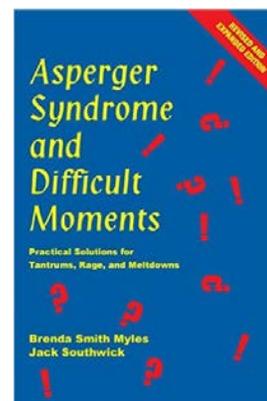


<http://txautism.net/library/online-courses>

These 28 webinars, created by the Autism Circuit, are 30-45 minutes in length covering information on evidence-based practices (EBPs) as identified by the National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorder.

The Autism Circuit team would like to highlight Reinforcement (including Differential Reinforcement), Prompting, Task Analysis, and Modeling, because they are the EBPs that have been found to be most effective for the most outcomes with the most students. These five strategies are often used along with the other 22 EBPs discussed in the series, and are referenced as core strategies throughout the remainder of the Autism Circuit webinar series. Consider these five EBPs your "gift box" and an important complement to the Autism Circuit Toolkit site. You may take these courses in any order.

RECOMMENDED READING & VIDEO



Asperger Syndrome And Difficult Moments: Practical Solutions For Tantrums, Rage And Meltdowns Rev Exp Edition

by Brenda Smith Myles, Jack Southwick

This expanded edition of the bestselling AAPC classic offers both parents and professionals tried-and-true solutions to minimize and circumvent the often frightening circumstances that surround the rage cycle not only for the child with Asperger Syndrome but others in the environment as well. In addition to almost doubling the section on interventions, this highly practical and user-friendly resource also focuses on the reactions of the adults around the child.

Many people with autism are visual thinkers. I think in pictures. I do not think in language. All my thoughts are like videotapes running in my imagination. Pictures are my first language, and words are my second language.- Temple Grandin, Ph.D.