



BUILDING BLOCKS

A Newsletter for Teachers Working with Preschool Educational Equity For All

April 2016

Children's Therapy & FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE

PRESCHOOL DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES

Red Flags for Autism

Basic social interaction can be difficult for children with autism spectrum disorders. Many kids on the autism spectrum seem to prefer to live in their own world, remain aloof and detached from others.

- Appears disinterested or unaware of other people or what's going on around him
- Doesn't know how to connect with others, play, or make friends
- Prefers not to be touched, held, or cuddled
- Doesn't play "pretend" games, engage in group games, imitate others, or use toys in creative ways
- Has trouble understanding or talking about feelings
- Doesn't seem to hear when others talk to her
- Doesn't share interests or achievements with others (drawings, toys)

www.kamloopschildrenstherapy.org/autism-red-flags-preschool#sthash.r71e7yrO.dpuf



What to Expect When

A Step-by-Step Guide From diagnosis To Treatment At Every Age.

Download our free, 17-Page eBook

<http://info.nspt4kids.com/autism-ebook>

In this free, 17-page eBook composed by a Pediatric Neuropsychologist and a Board Certified Behavior Analyst, you will get comprehensive and vital information on Autism at each phase of development.

Helpful Strategies for Autism in Preschool Classrooms

- Picture Schedules.
- Routine.
- Visual Stimuli.
- Keep it Simple.
- Avoid Distracters.
- Coach.
- Buddy System.
- Reinforcers

<http://nspt4kids.com/therapy/helpful-strategies-for-autism-in-preschool-classrooms/>

Environmental & Instructional Supports for Students' with Autism in the Preschool Classroom

Introduction to Importance of Visual Supports



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hg7Qa6RL0PM>



SHOE TYING 101



Tips and tools for teaching kids to tie their shoes

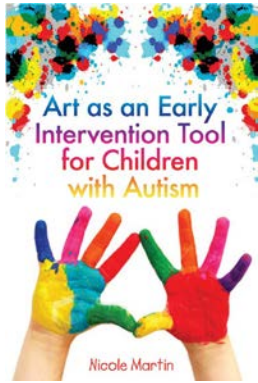
<http://www.sugaraunts.com/2015/10/shoe-tying-tips-and-tools-for-kids.html>

Let's Tie Our Shoes!

1. Put both laces on one side of the shoe.
2. Pick up one lace and go over and under the other lace.
3. Hold the ends of the laces close to the shoe.
4. Push the other lace and wrap it around the loop.
5. Push the lace through with your finger.
6. Grab the loop with your hand...Grab the other loop with the other hand...And pull.

FREE PRINTABLE!

FEATURED IDEA OF THE MONTH



The book is packed with suggestions for providing art therapy for children with autism, covering topics such as the materials required, safety issues, how to set up a workspace, and managing difficult behaviour. Nicole Martin is a qualified art therapist specializing in working with children with autism, and she also has a brother with autism.

Facilitating Friendships with Children on the Autism Spectrum in Inclusive Preschool Classrooms

Conversation Starters

Conversation Starters: Prompt children to initiate communication/conversation with peers by teaching them a few common phrases or scripts that interest peers. For example, if peers are interested in a particular TV show, teach the child with ASD to comment on things about the show. Teachers can also plan conversations such as, "Let's talk about what we did during centers" and prompt the child to talk about what they played with peers. Teachers may also prompt a child to invite a friend to his/her house to play a certain game or activity (this should be pre-arranged with both sets of parents).

Pretend Play Activities Designed to Teach Skills and Facilitate Interactions

Teaching Play Scripts: Peers often enjoy playing familiar games repeatedly and adding to, or modifying, their play scripts. Help children with ASD to learn a few of these scripts by practicing pretend play or reading social stories that model the child's role. It may be helpful to script ways for the child to enter or initiate the play. Having the teacher take on a role and facilitate these scripts can also help children with ASD join in the fun. Remember: start simple!

Suggestions of Play Scripts to Teach: Taking care of a baby/family roles; pizza or ice cream parlor/cooking; building a rocket ship and go to outer space; taking a trip; familiar routines from the child's experiences such as going to a fast food restaurant; or any script connected to the curriculum theme.

Suggested Materials: Labels that prompt scripts, such as pictures of volcanoes and dinosaur figurines, real life housekeeping materials, boxes from foods children eat, souvenirs from trips or activities.

<http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/ta-system/teaching/Disabilities/Services%20to%20Children%20with%20Disabilities/Individualization/FacilitatingFrie.htm>

WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

<http://autisminthepreschoolclassroom.weebly.com/teaching-autism-in-the-classroom.html>

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

http://autism.lovetoknow.com/Preschool_Activities_for_Autistic_Children



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Including Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders in Preschool Classrooms: Strategies that Work

As the number of children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) continues to increase, more and more preschool teachers will have the opportunity to include children with ASD in their classrooms. The purpose of this presentation is to present information about 5 concrete strategies designed to increase the participation and enhance outcomes for children with ASD in preschool classrooms. These strategies build upon recommended practices in early childhood special education and evidence-based instructional strategies for students with ASD to create classroom tools that are effective and sustainable in early learning settings.

<http://inclusioninstitute.fpg.unc.edu/node/388>



Adapted Sensory Story: The Tiny Seed

This original multi-sensory story kit is designed for students with a general learning disability (including autism) or an early childhood classroom. This is an adapted and simplified story based on the Eric Carle book – *The Tiny Seed*.

The Sensory Story Kits include:

- Story scripts with sensory experience suggestions (PDF)
- Sound files to accompany story (Wav)
- Printable visual book (PDF)

A sensory story is intended to be highly interactive, and the more creative you are with sensory objects and materials, the better. The template allows users to write in their own ideas for actions and resources.

<http://designedbyteachers.com.au/marketplace/adapted-sensory-story-the-tiny-seed/>