

Connections

A Newsletter For Teachers Working With Autism
Educational Equity For All



February 2016

Personalized Stories on Emotional,
Social, and Behavioral Skills



Helping Children with Organizational Skills and
Responsibility

Strategies for Helping Kids Get Organized

Strategies for Helping Kids Get Organized gives six tips for helping kids independently keep their belongings organized.
<http://www.sandbox-learning.com>



Sensory Stimulation Activities for Autism

It is challenging to know which sensory activities are best for a child with autism. Basically, the goal is to help children achieve an optimal state of alertness so that they are able to attend and learn. Children who seem to lack energy and are "floppy" often benefit from sensory activities that increase alertness. Some autistic children are bouncing off the walls, however, and need sensory activities that help slow them down in order to focus.

Sensory Activities to Calm Children

New parents quickly learn how to calm a baby with slow rocking, swaddling in a blanket (deep touch), a quiet lullaby and avoidance of loud sudden noises. These same sensory activities help easily over-stimulated children with autism to become calm and more focused. Sometimes these children become focused after spending some quiet time in a semi-dark play corner, cuddling with heavy blankets on a bean bag chair and squeezing balls filled with putty.

www.livestrong.com/article/76136-sensory-stimulation-



Don't miss the next Sensory Friendly
Film!



No movies
scheduled for
February 2016

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:

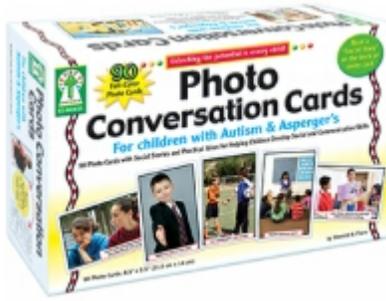
<https://www.amctheatres.com/programs/sensory-friendly-films>

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

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FEATURED IDEA OF THE MONTH

Photo Conversation Cards For Children With Autism And Aspergers



Help children develop social and communication skills with Photo Conversation Cards for Children with Autism and Asperger's. The set includes 90 full-color photo cards with a social story printed on the back of each photo card.

<http://www.nestlearning.com/photo-conversation-cards-for-children-with-autism-and-aspergers>

On Aromas

Easy Does It! "It is a common misconception to think that the air must be heavy with the chosen aromas in order for them to have any effect. In fact, the opposite is true—research has shown that the learning-enhancing effects of aromas are best when the odors are barely perceptible or even imperceptible." --Joie Power, Ph.D. Dreaming Earth Botanicals

On Emotions and Learning

"People just do not learn very well when unhappy, depressed, confused, angry, sad, etc. Such negative emotions are accompanied by psychological tension that hinders learning. Teachers need to make the learning process enjoyable. Tell them: 'I'll help you learn', 'Get ready to have another nice day learning in this class.' 'Learning will be easy for you.

--D.H. Schuster and C.E. Gritton, Suggestive Accelerative Learning Techniques pp. 22 & 121

On Visuals

"Imagery helps improve the speed and durability of learning. It can take many forms such as:

- Graphics (pictures, symbols, icons)
- Metaphors & analogies
- Physical objects
- Mnemonic (memory) devices
- Stories
- Body language

On Games

Don't focus on trying hard to be funny. Instead, play a game that allows funny moments to happen naturally. Play the "Imaginary Box." Have each player in turn, pull "funny things" out of your box until their "brain fries." In round 2, ask players to pull out items that are "banal, boring and unfunny." --Doni Tamblyn & Sharyn Weiss, The Big Book of Humorous Training Games, p. 3-5.

WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

<http://autismeducators.com/browse-worktasks/reading&filter=14>
http://www.learninglinks.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/LLIS-03_Autism-Strategies.pdf
<https://www.autismspeaks.org/blog/2013/03/19/seven-ways-help-your-nonverbal-child-speak>

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Autism Focused Intervention Resources & Modules

Access free AFIRM online modules and resources for each of the 27 evidence-based practices identified by the National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

We are excited to announce AFIRM has launched 2 new modules!

Social Skills Training Module



Use social skills training to improve social and communication skills.

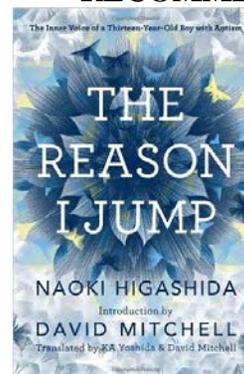
Modeling Module



Use modeling to visually demonstrate a skill or behavior to a learner with ASD.

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

RECOMMENDED READING & VIDEO



The Reason I Jump: The Inner Voice of a Thirteen-Year-Old Boy with Autism



Carly's Café - Experience Autism Through Carly's Eyes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KmDgVquzn2k>