

Connections

A Newsletter For Teachers Working With Autism
Educational Equity For All



January 2019

Ten Top Tips for Working with Autistic Children

1. Don't talk too much
2. Capitalize on Strong Interests
3. Tap into Technology
4. Be Sensitive About Sound
5. Dim Distractions
6. Keep it Concrete
7. Revel in Routine
8. Model It
9. Share Success to Encourage More
10. Don't give up!

<https://txsource.com/2016/11/21/ten-top-tips-working-autistic-children/>



Snagglebox

How To Make Group Work Easier For Autistic Students:

Why is group work difficult?

- Unpredictability
- Group selection
- Shared physical space
- Transitions
- Sensory overload
- Reliance on social skills
- Understanding and negotiating roles

What can you do to help?

- Give advance warning
- Keep groups small
- Keep groups familiar
- Use warm-up bonding activities
- Clearly define rules and expectations
- Be flexible with space
- Specify tasks
- Identify groups
- Provide opportunities to practice

<https://goo.gl/8QbjP8>



Don't miss the next Sensory Friendly Film!



BUMBLEBEE
1/8



MARY
POPPINS
RETURNS
1/12



GLASS
1/22



A DOGS
WAY
HOME
1/26

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.

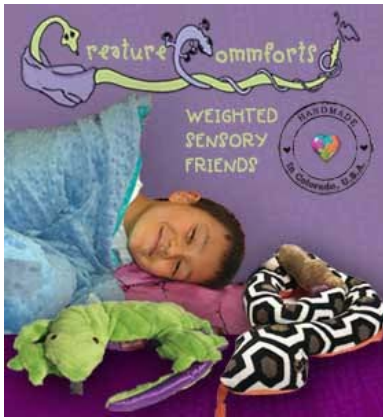
Tickets are \$4-6 depending on location and can be purchased on the day of the event. To find a participating theater:

<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



Creature Comforts -
Weighted Sensory
Turtle Lap Pad with
Removable Cover,
Weighted Sensory
Lizard Lap Pad,
Weighted Sensory
Frog

<https://goo.gl/iJeRHk>



Picture Exchange Communication System

The Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) is a term I often hear people using any time they are talking about using picture icons and visual supports (such as Picture Communication Symbols, known as PCS, which is used in the software program Boardmaker) in their classrooms to support students. *PECS is a specific system for teaching communication, it is not a visual support system using icons.*

This is worth repeating: **The use of picture icons in visual supports is not PECS.**

The Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) is a type of augmentative alternative communication (AAC) originally developed for children with autism. The primary purpose of PECS is to teach individuals to initiate communication and to learn requesting. Individuals are taught to initiate by handing a picture to a communication partner in exchange for a desired item.

PECS is a system for instructing students to initiate communication through the use of pictures/symbols in place of words. Students physically exchange a picture to request an item, and may move toward commenting on or describing something, and eventually to having a conversation. <https://goo.gl/WtZ2Xz>

WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

<https://goo.gl/x2vsqM>
<https://goo.gl/DuXRba>
<https://goo.gl/6UpGoN>



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Porchlight

AUTISM EDUCATION SERIES

The **Porchlight Autism Education Series** is a free eLearning program with over 50 Modules designed to offer behavioral solutions to common daily challenges parents or caregivers may confront in the world of developmental disabilities.

Children with autism very often have deficits in language, social, and behavioral development. These modules can help you teach your child to develop life skills.

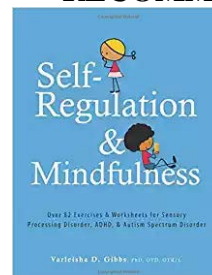
Each module is a short 3-10 minute course created by highly trained staff, including Occupational Therapists, Speech Language Pathologists, and Board Certified Behavior Analysts that:

- Shows theory and hands-on instruction
- Gives parents specific examples of behavior modifications
- Provides PDF of module information

<https://www.porchlighteducation.org/>



RECOMMENDED READING & VIDEO



Self-Regulation and
Mindfulness: Over 82 Exercises
& Worksheets for Sensory
Processing Disorder, ADHD, &
Autism Spectrum Disorder

By Varleisha Gibbs



Visual Aids for Learning -
Morning Routine (Girl)

Lots of downloadable
visual supports for life
skills, recreation and
leisure and school.

<https://goo.gl/STQDwF>

School Absence And Refusal Strategies

Autistic children and young people can find the school environment challenging and they can sometimes refuse to attend. School refusal may not just happen one day, it may continue until the reasons behind it have been identified and addressed.

Here we look at reasons that could be behind this. We also suggest strategies to try at home and school to help them maintain school attendance or reintegrate them back into school. <https://goo.gl/3RqKGR>