

Connections

A Newsletter For Teachers Working With Autism
Educational Equity For All



August 2017



<https://goo.gl/FiEayn>

Planning Morning Meetings for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

When Elizabeth Powell and I co-taught in an inclusion program for students on the autism spectrum, we discovered that Morning Meeting offered an excellent opportunity to address these students' needs and to help them connect to their classmates by using two of their often overlooked strengths: humor and a passionate interest in specific topics. I described our strength-based approach in "[Playing to Strengths: Morning Meetings Designed for Students with Autism](#)."

Carefully planning each component of our Morning Meetings allowed us to craft meetings that supported students who were on the spectrum without diminishing the pleasures and benefits of the meetings for the class as a whole. We made some minor changes, but honored the structure and intent of Morning Meeting and kept our meetings within the recommended 20- to 30-minute time frame. Here's how we did it.

Morning Meeting

- **Greeting**
Say hello to each other and ask a question
- **Sharing/Check-In**
Quickly share how we're doing this morning
- **Group Activity**
Do something fun together
- **Schedule & News**
Review today's schedule and news
- **Morning Message**
Reflect on what we're learning together



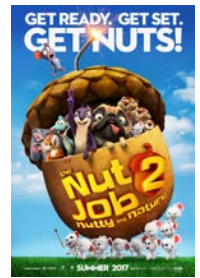
Don't miss the next Sensory Friendly Film!



THE EMOJI MOVIE 8/8



THE HITMAN'S BODYGUARD 8/22



THE NUT JOB 2: NUTSY BY NATURE 8/26

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.

Tana Donaghy, President, Educational Equity For All
Misstanad@educationaequityforall.org; 909-964-5057
<http://www.educationalequity4all.com/>

FEATURED IDEA OF THE MONTH

AUTISM adventures

"HOW TO SET UP A SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM" - BULLETIN BOARDS

Use wall space for Interactive bulletin boards.

http://www.autismadventures.com/2015/06/how-to-set-up-special-education-program_24.html

No matter what your classroom is titled, it is a classroom first and you are a teacher first. You will still need to address the content areas. If you are doing individual task time, incorporate this time into content areas. Task boxes are the perfect way to give individual practice- the "You do" part of lesson delivery. They can also build that independence.

<https://goo.gl/7SmCvM>

- Caution using centers for all instruction. If the teacher is at a center, then how much time are students really getting instruction. Paraeducators can not teach, they support instruction through practice and application.

Here is a sample of center rotations during the math period from "Teaching Special Thinkers"

<https://goo.gl/v6LBrW>

- Here is a quick run down of our math rotations (we color code our stations):
Blue Table: Work with teacher on new skill
Black Table: Practice new skill with teacher assistant (I use a lot of my cut and paste pages here)
Yellow Table: Technology (math games - I love ABCYA Pre-K/K level for my young lads and Prodigy for my older kiddos - both are FREE)
Red Table: Independent binder work - I keep their binders stocked with sheets of previously mastered skills.
Green Table: File Folder Tasks - more practice with mastered skills

Here is another great resource for setting up the individual tasks.

The Importance of Independent Work {and how to set it up in your class!}

<http://theautismhelper.com/setting-independent-work-system/>

WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

<https://goo.gl/BfsfbF>
<https://goo.gl/Ab8U7I>
<https://goo.gl/1Ms1nj>

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

AUTISM CERTIFICATION CENTER

ASD Strategies in Action Real-Life, Practical, Evidence

<https://autismcertificationcenter.org/>



RECOMMENDED READING & VIDEO



Apps for Autism: Revised and Expanded
Autism? There's an app for that!

Actually, there are more than 200 apps for autism, and this book will guide you through them so you can confidently

utilize today's technology to maximize your child or student's success!

VEST ON, VEST OFF? WEARING TIMES FOR WEIGHTED VESTS



A number of [studies](#) document the positive impact of weighted vests. However there is no real science to time on and weight, which still leaves many of us scratching our heads. Fortunately, there are helpful guidelines for overall use.

- Pair The Vest With the Activity.
- Start At 5%.
- Consider Social Applications.
- Let Your Child Choose.
- Keep A Sample Vest on Hand.

<https://goo.gl/fSKv9b>