

# Connections

A Newsletter For Teachers Working With Autism  
Educational Equity For All



February 2019

## The Sensory Room: Helping Students With Autism Focus and Learn

Imagine a safe space where students with autism can go to calm their bodies and then get back to the business of learning. <https://goo.gl/NCv6L5>



Research shows that if the student's in the right mindset and they get their sensory needs met, they're going to be much better learners. So after the sensory room, they're able to focus more, they're able to learn easier, and they retain more information.



## Social Stories: Power Tool For Autism

Social Stories are a tool for teaching social skills to children with autism. In fact, social stories can be effective when used as an intervention tool for individuals with other disabilities where communication and language are found to be top issues. Social stories provide an individual with information about situations that he or she may find difficult to understand or confusing. This website has social stories separated into categories. <https://goo.gl/2eAmiU>



Don't miss the next Sensory Friendly Film!



THE KID WHO WOULD BE KING  
2/9

MISS BALA  
2/12

THE LEGO MOVIE 2: THE SECOND PART  
2/23

FIGHTING WITH MY FAMILY  
2/26

## 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



### 30 SELF-CONTROL ACTIVITIES TO TEACH SELF-REGULATION



From managing impulsive behavior, resisting distractions, and learning the art of delayed gratification, to regulating emotions in the face of conflict and feelings of discomfort, self-regulatory behavior is key to success in all areas of our lives, and since children with poor self-control tend to exhibit more behavioral problems than their

self-disciplined peers, teaching children self-control is more important than parents might think.

<https://goo.gl/vnwJSG>



## Tips for Following Directions in the Classroom & Home

### Typical Development of Following Directions

It's important to understand what children can follow based on their age and development. Following directions is part of language development and children add to this skill as they get older. Here is some basic developmental information to keep in mind.

**Age 1** – Children are able to understand and respond to simple, 1 step directions such as handing you a toy when you ask for it, or raising their arms when you say “up”.

**Age 2** – Your child can start to identify certain objects or body parts which is an important skill for being able to follow directions.

**Age 3** – Children begin understanding and carrying out more complex, 2 step directions. An example would be, “please pick up your clothes and put them in the hamper.” Remember if it is a brand new experience, your child will still have a hard time following the direction or command because it is still new to them.

**Age 4** – Children can identify SOME shapes, colors, and letters by this age and this is a very important skill for being able to follow directions in the classroom. Children can also begin to follow more complex directions, such as 3 or 4 step directions. This is when you may notice some receptive language issues if a child is not able to follow through or understand your directions.

If you are working with a child with developmental or cognitive delays, it will be important to remember where they are developmentally in following directions, not just based on their age. <https://goo.gl/jGupFa>

## WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

<https://goo.gl/jcbujM>  
<https://goo.gl/knouGC>  
<https://goo.gl/nXXRN6>



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Including Students on the Spectrum: 5 Powerful Strategies

Tuesday, February 19, 2019 @ 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm EST

Including Students on the Spectrum

Presented by Paula Kluth, Ph.D., Author of “You’re Going to Love This Kid!”

Get a CE Certificate for this edWebinar

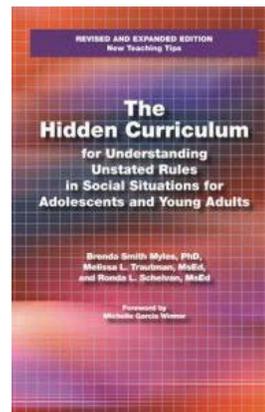
<https://home.edweb.net/webinar/inclusiveeducation20190219/>



Autism and Anxiety:  
Assessment and Intervention

Thursday, February 21, 2019  
@ 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm EST

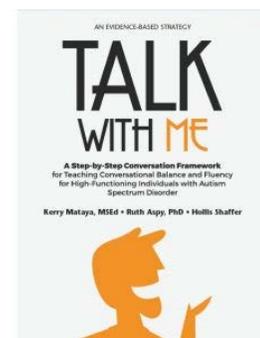
## RECOMMENDED READING & VIDEO



The Hidden Curriculum for Understanding Unstated Rules in Social Situations for Adolescents and Young Adults

Talk with Me

A whole new perspective on conversation skills. Don't miss out on this revolutionary approach.



Talk With Me is a unique approach to assessing and teaching conversation skills in a group setting – effective for most students who have difficulty engaging in conversations, including students with HF-ASD.