

Connections

A Newsletter For Teachers Working With Autism
Educational Equity For All



September 2015

ACE® - Autism Curriculum Encyclopedia®

The Autism Curriculum Encyclopedia (ACE) is our comprehensive web-based educational application. Based on close to 40 years of curriculum development, research and implementation, the ACE includes assessment tools, customizable lesson plans, and data-based reporting systems. Developed by the Ph.D.s, BCBA's and special educators at The New England Center for Children® The ACE is being used by consultants, private, public and collaborative schools, including the Boston and New York City Public schools. The ACE is your affordable, online curriculum solution for students with autism.

www.necc.org



Autism Behavior Toolbox

Autism Behavior Toolbox is the most recent addition to the Behavior Toolbox Series and is specifically designed to support and help teachers and their assistants manage the behavior of children with autism. A wide range of people in mental health and healthcare will also find it valuable in providing a good working knowledge of autism treatment. The concept of the Autism Behavior Toolbox continues in the same tradition as the Child and Adolescent Toolbox software where parameters based on age, context, and specific behavior return a range of research based intervention strategies.

www.conductmanagement.com



Don't miss the next Sensory Friendly



Saturday, Sep 26, 2015 - HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 2
10 a.m. local time

In order to provide a more accepting and comfortable setting for this unique audience, the movie auditoriums will have their lights brought up and the sound turned down, families will be able to bring in their own gluten-free, casein-free snacks, and no previews or advertisements will be shown before the movie. Additionally, audience members are welcome to get up and dance, walk, shout or sing - in other words, AMC's "Silence is Golden®" policy will not be enforced unless the safety of the audience is questioned.

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

Inside-Out Ball



www.therapyshoppe.com

Presto... these ultra slick sensory fidget balls change from a soft, round ball into a soft and spiky ball with a quick "flip" of your hand! Fidgeting fingers find these unique tactile sensory balls absolutely irresistible! Excellent for building fine motor skills, bilateral coordination, and finger strength. Inside-Out Balls come in assorted dazzling colors.

Interpreting Challenging Behaviors

All behavior serves a function – usually it is either communicative or self-regulatory. Learn how to take on a detective role in figuring out why a behavior is occurring and how we, as partners, can help a child learn more effective strategies to get their needs met.



<http://autismneighborhood.org/interpreting-challenging-behaviors/>

Sensory Spaces on the Cheap

Before you go crazy buying or making things for a sensory space please consider carefully things like how much space you have, how sturdy/unbreakable things need to be for your students and what will the purpose of your sensory space be? If your students need help being alert and interactive a soothing white room with soft glowing lights may not be the best idea and a room with expensive lights and decor may not be a great idea for a student who needs to "get his wiggles out". Think about your purpose before you purchase! Consider a theme to unify the room or space so it doesn't look thrown together - "The Ocean", "Beach" and "Space" might all work well!

I should also mention that the American Academy of Pediatrics and others have warned that **Sensory Integration Therapy** does not (yet) have a research base behind it. Multisensory Environments (aka Snozelen Spaces) also **do not have a preponderance of evidence behind them** (this is because most of the research is done by those who create and sell the systems). That being said creating an engaging, soothing or otherwise specialized space for your students at school or your child at home can be rewarding. It is up to the teacher (or parent or therapist) to collect baseline and intervention related data to determine if the space is helpful.

<http://teachinglearnerswithmultipleneeds.blogspot.com/2012/12/sensory-spaces-on-cheap.html>

WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

<http://www1.sensorycomfort.com/>
<http://www.sensoryresources.com/>
http://visuals.autism.net/main.php?g2_itemId=524

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Preparing Educators of Students with Autism

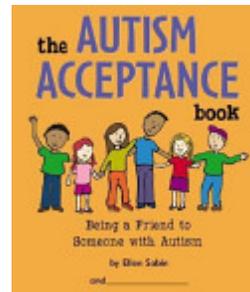


The Special Education Program at Indiana University - Bloomington offers Preparing Educators of Students with Autism (PESA). The program is comprised of five upper-level graduate courses.

focusing on autism spectrum disorders (ASD) PESA courses are open to students who wish to pursue a certificate in this discipline. You may also take courses on a stand-alone basis or in fulfillment of a graduate-level minor.

<http://education.indiana.edu/graduate/programs/special-ed/pesa/>

RECOMMENDED READING & VIDEO



The Autism Acceptance Book: Being a Friend to Someone with Autism

The Autism Acceptance Book is an activity book, a conversation-starter, and an educational tool that engages children in learning to embrace people's differences

and treat others with respect, compassion and kindness. It helps children see that we are all different from each other and we all like to be understood and accepted. It teaches children about autism; helps them imagine how things might feel for those with autism and lets them think of ways to be understanding and accepting to people with autism. Ideal for classrooms and group setting, this book should be shared with every child as it will help them learn important life lessons and help soften the stigma of autism and other special needs.



How to Make Smoother Transitions with Students with Autism

www.AutismClassroom.com

- Build in extra time for all transitions.
- Visual cues to show what is next.
- Have an item they really want at the place where they are going.
- Remove distracting items out of view.
- Give a verbal warning. (ex. "1 minute.")
- Use a visual warning. (ex. count down board)
- Use an auditory warning that an activity is almost done. (ex. timer)

Book Source: How to Set Up a Classroom for Students with Autism (Second Edition)