

Connections

A Newsletter For Teachers Working With Autism
Educational Equity For All



October 2017



STAR Institute
for Sensory Processing Disorder

Understanding Sensory Processing Disorder

Sensory Processing Disorder or SPD (originally called Sensory Integration Dysfunction) is a neurological disorder in which the sensory information that the individual perceives results in abnormal responses.

<https://www.spdstar.org/basic/understanding-sensory-processing-disorder>



SPECTRUM

New Diagnosis Covers 'Borderlands' Of Autism Spectrum

Social (Pragmatic) Communication Disorder (Scd)

***Syndrome similarity:** Some children who do not have autism may meet the criteria for social communication disorder.*

SCD is characterized by social difficulties and communication problems, which are also features of autism. The addition of SCD to the manual was part of a diagnostic shake-up that also **redefined autism** and removed a related condition called pervasive developmental disorder-not otherwise specified (PDD-NOS).

<https://spectrumnews.org/news/new-diagnosis-covers-borderlands-autism-spectrum/>



Don't miss the next Sensory Friendly Film!



Blade Runner
2049
10/10/17

My Little
Pony: The
Movie
10/14/17

Geostorm
10/24/17

My Little
Pony: The
Movie
10/28/17

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



Squease Pressure Vest

The Squease pressure vest is a lightweight, air-filled vest designed to apply therapeutic pressure to the person wearing the vest. The hug-like pressure provided by Squease can help the wearer with sensory overload, avoid meltdowns, and improve concentration in the classroom and in the community. Squease is designed for people of all ages, who have difficulties processing sensory information, like people with Autism, ADHD, and sleeping or anxiety disorders. <https://www.ablenetinc.com/technology/sensory/squease-pressure-vest>

WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

<https://www.rethinked.com/>
<https://goo.gl/fRfhAB>
<http://www.aspergerssocialstories.com/>



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



The Maine Autism Institute offers several options for education professionals and support staff to receive autism training through our workshops, school-based teams, and online training.

All nine of our workshops are available to view online, at the same low cost of \$30 per person/ per workshop, and contact hours are available. Archived viewing option is available for each selected workshop at a time convenient with your schedule.

<https://umaine.edu/autisminstitute/trainings/>



ASD toddler initiative

Early Identification of Autism Spectrum Disorder

Hello and welcome to the **Early Identification Online Module** developed by the [National Professional Development Center on ASD](http://www.nationalprofessionaldevelopmentcenteronasd.org/).
<https://goo.gl/XjdCgF>



Autism Speaks Launches Guide for Exploring Feeding Behavior in Autism

[Autism Speaks Autism Treatment Network \(AS-ATN\)](http://www.autismspeaks.org/news/news-item/autism-speaks-launches-guide-exploring-feeding-behavior-autism) is pleased to announce the release of its latest tool kit: ***Exploring Feeding Behavior in Autism: A Parent's Guide***.

<https://www.autismspeaks.org/news/news-item/autism-speaks-launches-guide-exploring-feeding-behavior-autism>



AUTISM RESEARCH INSTITUTE
Autism is Treatable

Colorful Classroom Displays May Impair Learning

Colorful classroom displays may impair learning for both neurotypical kids and those with ASD.

Colorful classroom displays appear to distract students and impair their learning, a new study reports, and the effect is stronger for children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) than for neurotypical children.

https://www.autism.com/classroom_displays

YouTube Video Links for Social Skills

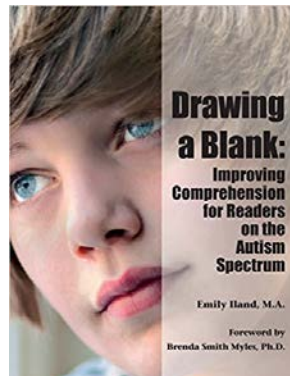
Hello everyone! Here are some YouTube video links that may supplement your social skills instruction. NOTE: For some longer video pieces, I may have previewed only portions of the video, so *be sure* to preview the entire video clip before showing it to students! – Jill

<https://jillkuzma.wordpress.com/youtube-video-links-for-social-skills/>

Social Skills Video Sample pack from EveryDay Speech – check out these FREE social skill videos to sample the 80+ videos available as a package
<https://goo.gl/mGtoXy>



RECOMMENDED READING & VIDEO



Drawing a Blank: Improving Comprehension for Readers on the Autism Spectrum by [Emily Iland](#)
Although they may be fluent readers - indeed, many have very precocious reading skills - individuals with autism spectrum disorders often need.

support for comprehension. Comprehension difficulties in readers with ASD can be subtle, qualitative, and difficult to tease out.