

BUILDING BLOCKS

A Newsletter for Teachers Working with Infant, Toddler
and Preschool
Educational Equity For All

April 2018

10 Tips for Teaching Young Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder

By Dana Jandhyala | 8/30/17

These 10 tips will help you get started:

1. Create a Structured Environment
2. Make Communication Easier
3. Use Visual Aids
4. Encourage Social Interactions
5. Make Activities Structured Too
6. Use Direct Language
7. Give Them Extra Time
8. Be Aware of Sensory Issues
9. Eliminate Potential Stress
10. Keep Instructions Simple

<http://blog.stageslearning.com/blog/10-tips-for-teaching-young-children-with-autism-spectrum-disorder>



THE ART OF AUTISM

CONNECTING THROUGH THE ARTS

5 Tips For Teaching Students On The Autism Spectrum

"Boundaries with love and relationship are key for teachers working with autistic and special needs children."

By Ron Sandison

1. Develop a friendship with your student by understanding his or her special interests.
2. Offer positive feedback to the student before offering criticism.
3. Build confidence in your student to interact socially.
4. Understand your student's strengths and weaknesses and adjust your teaching methods accordingly.
5. Understand your student's sensory issues that may trigger meltdowns.

<https://the-art-of-autism.com/5-tips-for-teaching-students-on-the-autism-spectrum/>



The National
Autistic Society

Teaching young children
on the autism spectrum

Autism And Behaviours To Be Aware Of
Children in early years settings may display behaviours that could indicate [autism](#). Some may have been diagnosed already, others will start the [diagnosis process](#) whilst at nursery or school.

Children on the autism spectrum exhibit a wide range of behaviours, including:

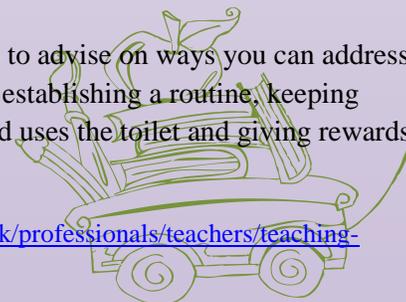
- difficulty relating to others and understanding unwritten rules
- difficulty in communicating (some may communicate in a non verbal way)
- difficulty with thinking flexibly eg how to cope when [plans change](#).

Toileting problems

Some autistic children find toileting very difficult, especially if they have a learning difficulty. You may find that a child who is dry at home will need nappies at nursery. Other children may use other places than the toilet, not realising that this is inappropriate. They're not being naughty; autistic children find it very difficult to understand social rules.

Parents should be able to advise on ways you can address this, but you could try establishing a routine, keeping records of when a child uses the toilet and giving rewards when they get it right.

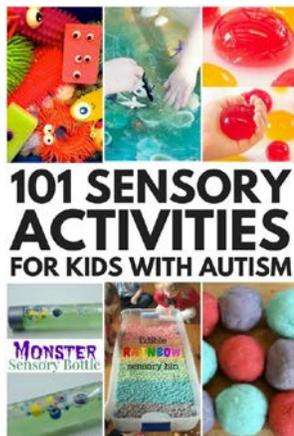
<http://www.autism.org.uk/professionals/teachers/teaching-young-children.aspx>



EDUCATIONAL
EQUITY FOR ALL
..... Giving kids what they need to succeed.

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FEATURED IDEA OF THE MONTH



Sensory Play! 101 Sensory Activities for Kids with Autism

101 sensory play activities for kids with autism to help strengthen the brain's neural pathways by stimulating the 5 senses to facilitate learning!
<https://goo.gl/nMGmC4>

Three Ways Teachers Can Support Kids With Autism <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aZzYXUNv6g0>



Sesame Workshop has introduced Julia, a muppet with autism. Advocates are excited because this is one of the first places that parents can find positive, empowering information about autism. Laura Anthony is a clinical psychologist with the Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders at Children's National Health System. She gives teachers her top three tips to support children with autism in school.



- Learning Center
- Activity Center
- Health Center
- Free Resources: Downloads (Free Books) and Videos:
 - Brain Development
 - Potter the Otter
 - Cooking and Eating Healthy
 - General Health
 - Activities
 - Early Education
 - Free Books
 - Coloring Sheets

They even have a section on special needs and Autism.
<http://www.first5california.com>

WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

<http://toosmall.org/community/body/Tips-for-Infant-Toddler-Teachers.pdf>
<https://www.whatihavelearnedteaching.com/5-things-classroom-calming-area/>
<http://theprimarypack.blogspot.com/2015/12/calm-down-bottles-for-classroom.html>



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



A variety of online courses and tutorials are available to families, support providers, life coaches and professionals who wish to deepen their knowledge or acquire credentials in supporting individuals with ASD and related conditions. Courses range from free introductory programs to professional development workshops to fee-based online courses that can lead to specialized certification. Some of these online providers offer courses specifically for individuals on the autism spectrum. <https://goo.gl/k8ezzu>



“Show, Hold, Give”... Improving Joint Attention in Toddlers

Joint attention, or being able to shift and share attention, is sooooo important for language development. It's a skill that's missing in lots of late talkers, particularly those with red flags for autism.

Show, hold, and give.

Show a child the item that's necessary for the next step. As you show him, you'll ask him to look as you name it and talk about it. After he's looked at you and the item as you talk about it (a big part of joint attention), move on to let him...

Hold the item as you prepare to use it. You'll continue to talk about what you're doing using the key words (listening is a big part of joint attention), and then move on to ask him to...

Give you the item so that you can use it.
<https://goo.gl/8ukCHh>