

Connections

A Newsletter For Teachers Working With Autism
Educational Equity For All



September 2017



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

<https://www.responsiveclassroom.org/planning-morning-meetings-for-students-with-asd/>



Don't miss the next Sensory Friendly Film!



Leap! 9/9/17



It 9/12/17



The LEGO
Ninjago
9/23/17



Kingsman
The Golden
Circle
9/26/17

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.

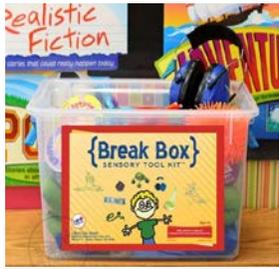
- The second and fourth Tuesday and Saturday.
- Family-friendly movies will continue to show Saturdays, starting at 10am local time
- We've added Tuesday showings at 7pm local time that may appeal to others on the autism spectrum.

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.

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

FEATURED IDEA OF THE MONTH



A Treasure Box of Sensory Tool

Customize your own Break Box to help students renew concentration, calm down or re-energize for better learning results.

Choose from 35+ award-winning sensory tools that address classroom behavior issues and re-engage body and mind. Use with adult supervision.

Provides sensory-based activities to help manage behavior. Choice of fine and gross motor tools, calming weight and heavy work. Enable students to self-regulate with minimum supervision.

<https://funandfunction.com/break-box-sensory-tool-kit-custom-choice.html>



Personalized Stories on Emotional, Social, and Behavioral Skills



Sandbox Learning Success Stories are a fun and easy way to address a variety of topics. Below are a few stories to help children prepare for new experiences.

Success Stories are personalizable children's books. Customize the illustrations to the child's appearance based on gender, hair style and color, eye color, skin tone, glasses, and method of communication. Alter the text to personalize the story's content. These fun and engaging children's books make every child feel special. Build a book together for a fun and creative activity or let a child know you care by creating a book just for them. Our collection of children's stories addresses emotional, social, safety, and communication skills to foster character development. Register today for a free ebook, "Waiting."

7 Strategies for Preparing Children for New Experiences

7 Strategies for Preparing Children for New Experiences includes ideas for making events fun, educational, and less stressful.

7 Strategies for Preparing Children for New Experiences - [PDF](#)

7 Strategies for Preparing Children for New Experiences - [Web Article](#)

<http://www.sandbox-learning.com/>

WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

<http://theautismsite.greatergood.com/clickToGive/aut/home>

<https://www.aucd.org/template/page.cfm?id=508>

<http://neurosciencenews.com/neuroscience-topics/autism/>



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The autistic spectrum: From theory to practice

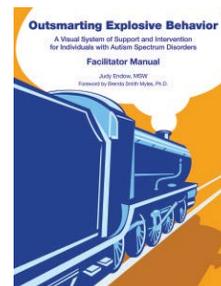
Free statement of participation on completion
In this free course, the autistic spectrum: From theory to practice, you will discover that there is a wide spectrum of disorders associated with autism, and an equally wide range of approaches to diagnosis and treatment.

After studying this course, you should be able to:

- provide an understanding of autistic spectrum disorders (ASDs)
- illustrate a range of theoretical and practical perspectives on this area and the links and contrasts between them
- consider the principles and problems of diagnosing autistic spectrum disorders
- highlight the theoretical and practical implications of treating autistic disorders as a spectrum
- emphasise the developmental trajectory of autistic spectrum disorders, and its implications.

<https://goo.gl/LTSHXc>

RECOMMENDED READING & VIDEO



OUTSMARTING EXPLOSIVE BEHAVIOR: A Visual System of Support and Intervention for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders

Outsmarting Explosive Behavior is a complete visual system of support and intervention for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders. The system includes the Facilitator Manual, the Student Workbook (to be used by the individual or by the support team on behalf of the individual) and the Visual System with all necessary components. <https://goo.gl/hoVU3J>



Making
Decisions About
Criteria in IEPs

1. *What type of skill is it?*
2. *Importance of mastery.*
3. *Measurement*
4. *Practicality.*

<https://www.autismclassroomresources.com/making-decisions-about-criteria-in-ieps/>