

# Connections

A Newsletter For Teachers Working With Autism  
Educational Equity For All



August 2019

Welcome Back!! New Opportunities to make a difference in the lives of your students and their families await you.



## How to Set Up an Autism Classroom

Setting up your autism classroom correctly can increase skill acquisition and independence and lower stress and anxiety. According to Dr. Lori Ernsperger, an autism specialist with over twenty years of experience, “the best way to make sure your students learn well is to ensure that the physical layout of your classroom is maximized and workstations are clearly delineated.”

Creating a well-designed classroom that has clearly defined work stations and visual cues can greatly increase the independence of your students. Make sure you have plenty of visual cues, reduce clutter, and as much as possible remove distracting visuals and auditory stimulation. Here are a few tips to help you set up your classroom from Dr. Ernsperger’s book Keys to Success for Teaching Students with Autism.

- Pay Special Attention to the Physical Layout
- Keep in Mind Sensory Stimulation
- Get Rid of the Clutter
- Use Visuals to Increase Independence and Define Spaces
- Have a Calm Down Area
- Organize Your Desk, Teaching Resources and Data Collection Materials

<https://t.ly/dMRM>



Don't miss the next Sensory Friendly Film!



Dora And The Lost City Of Gold  
8/10/19



Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw  
8/13/19



The Angry Birds Movie 2  
8/24/19



Scary Stories To Tell In The Dark  
8/27/19

## 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

Autism Teaching Student Transition Tip Sheet  
Tip Sheet  
<https://suelarkey.com.au/tip-sheet/>



<https://suelarkey.com.au/tip-sheet/>



## TOP FIVE THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN SETTING UP A CLASSROOM TO SUPPORT STUDENTS WITH ASD

The beginning of the school year is right around the corner! Many teachers are setting up their rooms in order to provide their students with the supports needed to ensure success. As you set up your classroom for the upcoming year consider the following:

- Structure Your Day
- Use Visuals
- Use Schedules
- Minimize Distractions
- Have A Calming Space

<https://t.ly/96re>



## 23 WAYS TO CREATE A SENSORY FRIENDLY CLASSROOM

Here are 23 simple sensory strategies for the classroom!

These ideas will help you move toward creating a sensory-friendly classroom.

There are many creative ways to embed sensory input into typical learning activities to make learning accessible to all students. Some kids need an extra dose of movement for concepts to really sink in. Others respond best when material is introduced through music. Still others need a hands-on approach – they need to manipulate objects, build things, and take things apart. And some kids may need less sensory input to stay focused and attentive.

Today, we'll take several common classroom activities and give examples of how to turn them on their heads with a little extra dose of sensory input that can help kids attend, engage, participate, and truly show us what they know!

<https://t.ly/OO1M>



## WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

<https://t.ly/erKr>  
<https://t.ly/Y9N0>  
<https://t.ly/M2YA>



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

UNDERSTANDING AUTISM  
Professional Development Curriculum



The Understanding Autism: Professional Development Curriculum is a comprehensive professional development

training tool that prepares secondary school teachers to serve the autism population. <https://t.ly/pRWE>



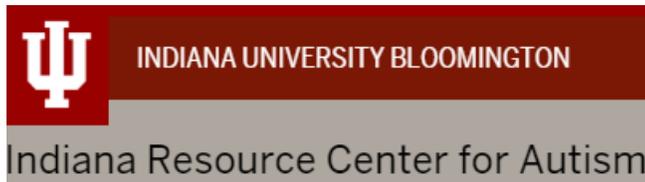
## RECOMMENDED READING & VIDEO

HOW TO SET UP A CLASSROOM FOR STUDENTS WITH AUTISM



How to Set Up a Classroom For Students with Autism Third Edition: A Manual for Teachers, Para-professionals and Administrators From AutismClassroom.com 3rd Edition

by S. B. Linton (Author)



Clean Up Your Act! Creating an Organized Classroom Environment for Students on the Spectrum.

Establishing a supportive classroom environment for students with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is an important component to consider when planning and implementing instruction. Research has consistently indicated that the way the classroom environment is arranged influences the learning of individuals with ASD (Hurth, Shaw, Izeman, Whaley, & Rogers, 1999). Additionally, research has found that students in organized and structured classrooms demonstrate more on-task behavior and higher academic achievement (Heflin & Alberto, 2001). Whether students are served in general education settings, self-contained settings, or any combination of locations, an organized classroom is key. <https://t.ly/bBnN>