Teaching girls who have severe autism with LD/SLD

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Peers

- Our school has 140 students – but only 16 are girls!
- The dilemma of peer groups in a school where
  - KS1 - 6
  - KS2 -6
  - KS3- 1
  - KS4 -2
  - KS3-3

Autism strategies

- TEACCH
- PECS
- Social Stories and Comic Strip Conversations
- Attention Autism / Attention Freemantles
- Intensive Interaction
- Sensory Diets
Communication

• PECS
• AAC - Augmentative and alternative communication
• Technology – and safe use of technology

Adaptations?

• At our school the usual autism strategies work with girls as well as boys
• Individualisation according to interests provides opportunities for adaptation for girls – although this is no different for any student as we individualise when we can for all students

Puberty

• changes in body shape
• changes – pubic hair growth, acne etc
• Changes in sexual desires
• Moodiness
• Hormone imbalance
• hygiene

Menstruation

• Understanding the concept
• Understanding the practical implications - using pads, hygiene
• pain issues
• Hormonal imbalance
• Unpredictability
Appearance

• Clothes - can a girl wear similar things when a young adult as a child?
• Hair – can a girl wear their hair in the same way when a young adult as a child?
• how can we assist with the learning of this?

Vulnerability

• Inappropriate behaviour for age
• Sex and relationship education
• Stalking
• Obsessions
• Allowing independence and developing self confidence
• travel training
• Finance
• Independent living

Employment

• Finding the right environment
• Job carving
• Education of employers