

# Connections

A Newsletter For Teachers Working With Autism  
Educational Equity For All



December 2018

## Overcoming Holiday in Autism Units

Tips, tricks, and a FREEBIE!



[www.NoodleNook.net](http://www.NoodleNook.net)

You've worked on good routines and procedures for weeks now... and in the blink of Holiday Vacation, all your hard work will be undone. Here are some ideas for helping students overcome holiday in Autism Units.

- Front-loading Holiday Vacation
- What Happens on Break Doesn't STAY on Break!
- Partner With Parents
- Holiday Hangover

<http://www.noodlenook.net/helping-students-overcome-holiday-autism-units/>



## Holiday Social Stories and Visual Questions for Children with Autism

This pack contains two visual social stories to help children with autism through the challenges of the holiday season. One story is about Winter Break and the other story is about how to say Thank You.

This pack also contains 4 holiday themed visual questions with picture response options. There is also a two page activity with questions about Santa that have visual response options. These are great to use for students who have lower verbal abilities or benefit from the use of visual! <https://goo.gl/jBU5ne>



Don't miss the next Sensory Friendly Film!



RALPH  
BREAKS THE  
INTERNET  
12/8



CREED II  
12/11



SPIDER-MAN  
INTO THE  
SPIDER-VERSE  
12/22

## 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>

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

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## FEATURED IDEA OF THE MONTH



BOING PRO light balls change color with a squeeze of your hand.

Rubbery bouncy light-filled ball, every time it's squeezed it changes color. This Ball demonstrates Cause and Effect and is a great visual item with the flashing color lights. <https://goo.gl/anVKgn>



## Building flexibility and predictability into classroom routines this holiday season

It is important to build flexibility into your usual classroom schedule by explaining to students that sometimes the schedule will change and teaching them how you will indicate when a change occurs.

Having a consistent icon for change is an easy way to let students know that a change in routine will happen that day. A change icon can be placed directly on to your existing schedule and may be in reference to a particular activity or time at which an activity takes place. Change icons are especially helpful for unexpected changes and are applicable in a variety of situations year round, so don't wait to introduce the symbol to your students!

Continue to reference your regular classroom schedule to show students the shape of the day

Even though you may be spending the whole morning building gingerbread houses, it is important to review your usual daily schedule before getting started. Though the activities listed will be different, students can still get a sense of how long activities will last and be reassured that some aspects of their day will remain consistent, such as recess and lunch.

<http://www.autismoutreach.ca/tipomonth/building-flexibility-and-predictability-classroom-routines-holiday-season>

## Autism Games

This Site is Full of Games:

Games that young children with Autism Spectrum Disorders will play.

Video models of games that parents can watch and learn from and young children can watch and imitate.

Tips and strategies for making games and play more educational and more fun!

<https://sites.google.com/site/autismgames/>

## WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

<https://goo.gl/EBswDW>

<https://goo.gl/ENqBEJ>

<https://goo.gl/rZYGs7>

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

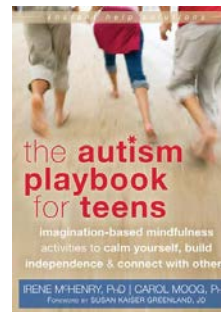
Universal Class

<https://goo.gl/UwcqwM>

### Autism Spectrum Disorders for Teachers

	\$55.00 no certificate -OR- \$80.00 with CEU Certificate*	Start Right Now! <a href="#">+ Join this Course</a>		
11 Lessons	13 Exams & Assignments	9 Hours average time	0.9 CEUs	911 Students have taken this course

## RECOMMENDED READING & VIDEO



The Autism Playbook for Teens: Imagination-Based Mindfulness Activities to Calm Yourself, Build Independence, and Connect with Others

by Irene McHenry, Carol Moog

This book offers a unique, strengths-based approach to help teens with autism spectrum (including Asperger's Syndrome) develop social skills, strengthen communication, and thrive.

## AUTISM Classroom NEWS & RESOURCES

Free Interactive Social Narrative for the Winter Break

<https://www.autismclassroomresources.com/free-interactive-social-narrative-for/>