



# Connections

A Newsletter For Teachers Working With Autism  
Educational Equity For All



November 2019

## What Educators Can Do

Since children with ASD have unique problems that other students usually don't face, educators need to adopt unique pedagogical approaches in order to reach them. In the following section, our experts weighed in with advice about what teachers can do to create the best environments in which students with autism may learn.

- Appeal to ASD students' visual nature.
- Provide structure.
- Give students space for sensory reactions to the environment.
- Adopt strategies to reduce students' anxiety.
- Cater language to the student.
- Help with social situations.

[t.ly/kKBID](http://t.ly/kKBID)



**TEACH LOVE AUTISM**  
building independence for the future



MORNING MEETING MATERIALS THAT WORK IN SPED

<http://www.teachloveautism.com/blog/>



**Don't miss the next Sensory Friendly Film!**



MALEFICENT:  
MISTRESS OF  
EVIL  
11/9/19



TERMINATOR:  
DARK FATE  
11/12/19



FROZEN 2  
11/23/ & 11/26

## 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

### VESTIBULAR SENSORY HACKS FOR KIDS



SENSORY TOYS FOR  
VESTIBULAR INPUT:  
SWINGS, BALANCE  
BOARDS, & ROCKERS!

- Sensory Swings You Could Buy
- Sensory Swings You Could Make Instead
- Balance Toys You Could Buy
- Balance Toys You Could Make Instead

[t.ly/OkAer](http://t.ly/OkAer)

WWW.ANDNEXTCOMESL.COM

## Potty Training a child with Autism

Start With The Following 3 Tools

### A GREAT SET OF VISUALS

Picture is worth a thousand words - you've heard it many times. If there is one thing you want to take away from this post, take this - 99% of kids with Autism are visual thinkers! Visuals will not only help your child understand what's involved in potty training, but can help with pretty much every self care activities. Remember, any autism potty training strategy without visuals is incomplete! Period. Now, for potty training, visuals can include story-boards, social stories, picture cards, etc

### TASK MANAGEMENT

Task Management is the art of breaking down a complex activity into simple, more manageable set of actions. For example, if you are not a builder and I tell you to build a house, how would you feel? 😞 Confused? Overwhelmed? But imagine if I gave you the initial steps i.e. build foundation, lay bricks, mount roof, paint walls - suddenly it feels little more manageable, isn't it? Also, the further I break these steps down, the easier it becomes.

For your kiddo, the whole process of going to the toilet seems like an overly complex process. Instead, if you were to breakdown the whole process into 10 to 15 steps using visuals and storyboards, your child will feel way more comfortable

### MOTIVATION MECHANISMS (Reinforcers)

Some people may think of reinforcers as "ethical bribes", but I disagree. I like to think of it as a reward. Imagine this, if you do a great job at work, your management gives you a raise and/or a promotion. Is that bribe? Heck no! It's something you have earned - and is rightfully yours. But why did your management give you a raise in the first place? Because, they want you to feel motivated and do even better next time. Your child needs motivation too. Reward them if they complete part of the toilet training process by themselves. It doesn't have to be something expensive - cookies, candies, stickers or even a warm hug could act as a great motivator for your child! The key here is to let your child know that you acknowledged his/her effort.

[https://go.autismag.org/autism-potty-training?r\\_done=1](https://go.autismag.org/autism-potty-training?r_done=1)

## WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

<https://www.swccd.edu/resources/vision/documents/13018.pdf>

<https://autismspectrumteacher.com/>

<https://blog.difflern.com/>



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT Setting Up an Autism-Friendly Classroom



<https://theartofeducation.edu/packs/set-autism-friendly-classroom/>



## RECOMMENDED READING & VIDEO



"Teaching Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder"  
Series, Webinar #4: Addressing Sensory Needs

Event Date

Wed, 11/20/2019 - 3:30PM

Event Date: November 20, 2019

Event Time: 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Host District: InterMountain ESD

Location: Internet-Based

This is the final webinar series aimed at supporting those who work with students with Autism Spectrum Disorder in the regular classroom or the general school environment.

<https://imesd.k12.or.us/event/wed-11202019-330pm>



How Choices Can  
Increase

Compliance

Posted by Amy Nielsen on A  
If you are dealing with non-compliance, these suggestions may help.

- Give few options
- Offer choices that you approve of and are realistic
- Don't give choices for everything
- Choices need to be immediately reinforced
- Do not alter the choices
- Praise when a choice is made that leads to compliance

[t.ly/pvPrO](http://t.ly/pvPrO)