

# Connections

A Newsletter For Teachers Working With Autism  
Educational Equity For All



August 2015



The Visual Supports and Autism Spectrum Disorder tool kit provides a step-by-step, easy-to-understand introduction to visual supports and the ways that parents and other caregivers can begin using them. The pamphlet provides practical examples of how to begin integrating visual supports into a child's daily routines. The tool kit provides actual visual supports for parents to print, cut out and use, along with links to resources that provide more detailed information for those who want to go further.

This tool kit is a result of on-going activities of the ATN and was developed with the support of a grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration to Vanderbilt University.

Anyone can download the Visual Supports and Autism Spectrum Disorder Tool Kit for free [here](#).

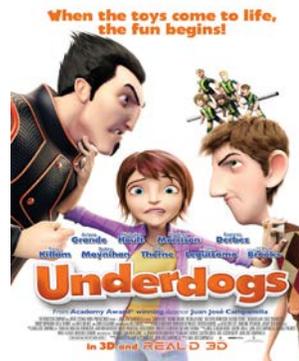
The Autism Speaks [Autism Treatment Network \(ATN\)](#) created [Exploring Feeding Behavior in Autism: A Guide for Parents](#) to help parents and professionals better understand the "nuts and bolts" of feeding issues.

Download the ATN/AIR-P Parent's Guide to Toilet Training in Autism for free [here](#). The tool kit provides caregivers tips to increase toileting success by teaching toileting skills, providing advice on preparing schedules and routines and promoting visual supports.

[www.autismspeaks.org](http://www.autismspeaks.org)



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



**Saturday, Aug  
22, 2015  
- UNDERDOGS**

**10 a.m.  
local time**

In order to provide a more accepting and comfortable setting for this unique audience, the movie auditoriums will have their lights brought up and the sound turned down, families will be able to bring in their own gluten-free, casein-free snacks, and no previews or advertisements will be shown before the movie. Additionally, audience members are welcome to get up and dance, walk, shout or sing - in other words, AMC's "Silence is Golden®" policy will not be enforced unless the safety of the audience is questioned.

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  
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## FEATURED IDEA OF THE MONTH



### 5 Pound Glitter Gel Weighted Lap Pad

These sturdy lap pads are designed by therapists to help your students stay calm and focused. Shiny stars suspended in a glittery gel provide deep pressure as well as tactile and visual stimulation! Place the

weighted pad across the lap of your student with autism to calm restless legs. They won't be able to keep their fidgety fingers from manipulating the sparkling gel laced with stars. [http://www.nationalautismresources.com/glitter-gel-lap-pad-5-pounds.html#.T\\_DEMsVq8tI.pinterest](http://www.nationalautismresources.com/glitter-gel-lap-pad-5-pounds.html#.T_DEMsVq8tI.pinterest)



## CAPTAIN

California Autism Professional Training and Information Network

<http://www.captain.ca.gov/>

CAPTAIN is a multiagency network developed to support the understanding and use of Evidence Based Practices for individuals affected by Autism Spectrum Disorder across the state.

### CAPTAIN is dedicated to the following:

Providing statewide access to trainings and resources in Evidence Based Practices (EBPs) that are culturally sensitive, family centered, cost effective, and competency based.

Establishing supports that are locally based with trainer of trainers at the local level.

Emphasizing how to use EBPs to assist students in accessing the California Common Core State Standards and developing College and Career Readiness.

Providing ongoing training, support, and technical assistance to implement EBPs and ensure fidelity of implementation.

Supporting the development of local multiagency collaborations to support consistent use of EBPs. Providing an annual training summit and a forum for collegial communication and support to CAPTAIN Cadre members.

Providing web based access to materials and resources that are vetted and align with current EBPs.

Providing information and outreach to other interested stakeholders and provider groups who could benefit from learning more about EBPs (E.g. Professional Organizations, Higher Education, Self Advocates, Allied Health Providers)

## WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

[http://www.deni.gov.uk/asd\\_classroom\\_practice.pdf](http://www.deni.gov.uk/asd_classroom_practice.pdf)  
<http://www.webmd.com/brain/autism/features/autism-in-the-classroom>  
<http://teaching.monster.com/benefits/articles/8761-22-tips-for-teaching-students-with-autism-spectrum-disorders>



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

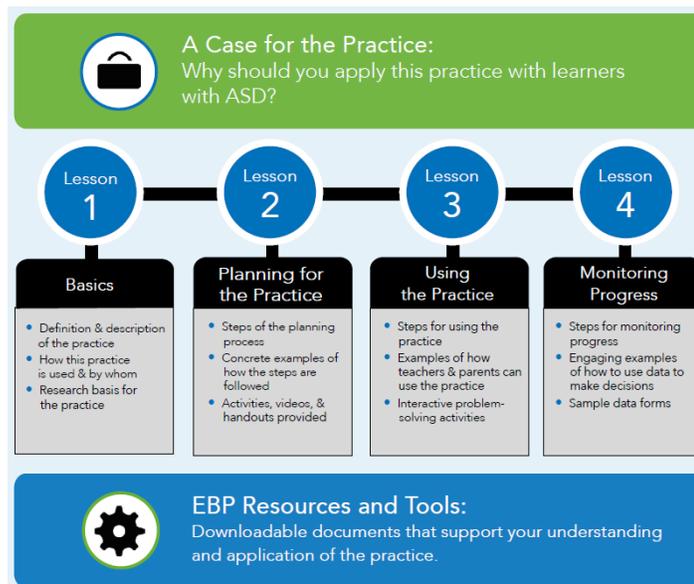
# AFIRM

Autism Focused Intervention Resources and Modules

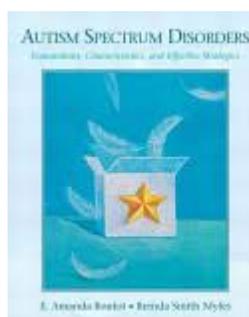
### AFIRM Module Learning Structure

Each AFIRM module focuses on an evidence-based practice (EBP) for learners with ASD and has a four lesson structure that includes engaging case examples, videos, and interactive assessments.

The structure was developed to facilitate: learning basic information about the EBP applying the EBP in activity-based scenarios that promote real-world application.



<http://afirm.fpg.unc.edu/afirm-modules>



### Autism Spectrum Disorders: Foundations, Characteristics, and Effective Strategies [Book]

by E. Amanda Boutot, Brenda Smith Myles · Prentice Hall · Paperback · 310 pages · ISBN 0205545750