

# Connections

A Newsletter For Teachers Working With Autism  
Educational Equity For All



June 2016



“Have a great summer and please do not throw your books in the air or run through the halls -- wait until the students have left the building.”



Don't miss the next Sensory Friendly Film!



TEENAGE  
MUTANT NINJA  
TURTLES: OUT  
OF THE  
SHADOWS 6/11



X-MEN:  
APOCALYPSE  
6/14



FINDING DORY  
6/25

## 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>



<http://www.filefolderheaven.com/autism-tasks/folder-stories>

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

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### FEATURED IDEA OF THE MONTH



Behavioral Reminders that can be quickly used by a teacher walking by to remind a student of their expected behavior.

<http://www.asdeducation.com/environment/>

## Autism Classroom Management

Below is a list of items that your classroom, which serves children with autism spectrum disorders, should have:

1. Schedule - A classroom schedule should be posted that reflects the following: independent work time, 1:1 (or 2:1) work time, small group instruction, social skills instruction, sensory play, structured play/structured recreation-leisure opportunities, fine motor work opportunities, personal management opportunities, limited large group activities.
2. An Effective Classroom Set Up/Engineered Environment for Students with Autism- An engineered environment created specifically to meet the needs of students with Autism is critical to the success of your classroom program.
3. Data Collection System- A data collection system should be in place to measure each student's IEP (Individualized Education Plan) objectives.
4. Written Plan for Classroom Roles and Responsibilities- Your classroom should have a posted written plan that designates the major responsibilities each staff member assumes.
5. Weekly Scheduled Debriefing Sessions- It is extremely important to meet with your team members concerning the needs and issues of your students.
6. 3-Step Prompting Series- To serves as a guide for making requests of students should be used consistently in the classroom. Posting this on the wall will help remind staff of the technique.
7. Language Based Techniques/Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) - These techniques and strategies must be embedded in all activities throughout the child's day.

8. A Written Behavior Plan- A plan should be in place for each child's targeted behaviors. If students have inappropriate behavior(s), there should be a plan for dealing with that behavior(s). All staff members in your class should have a copy of the behavior plans.

9. Sensory Issues- Sensory issues should be addressed throughout the school day. Sensory issues should be identified for each child, when applicable, and programmed for and incorporated in the daily schedule.

-Source: "How to Set Up a Classroom For Students with Autism" book <http://www.edutopia.org/groups/special-ed/20738>

### WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

<http://www.autismconnectmd.org/education/methods.html>  
<http://www.educateautism.com/>  
<http://www.teachersfirst.com/spectopics/autism-asperger.cfm>



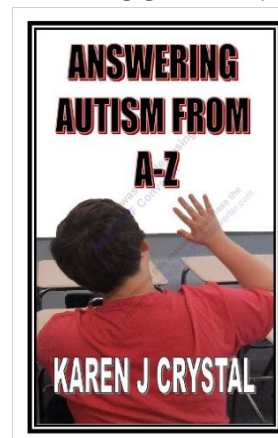
### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



## Online Courses and Tutorials

A variety of online courses are available for families, support providers, and professionals who wish to deepen their knowledge or acquire credentials in supporting individuals with ASD and related conditions. Courses range from free introductory programs to professional development workshops to fee-based online courses that can lead to specialized certification. Some of these online providers offer courses specifically for individuals on the autism spectrum. <http://www.autism-society.org/living-with-autism/how-the-autism-society-can-help/online-courses-and-tutorials/>

### RECOMMENDED READING & VIDEO



Answering Autism From A-Z provides parents, caregivers, teachers and families with informative details on how to deal with Autism on a daily basis. This book is written in an A-Z format for easy access to find exactly what you need in a moments notice.