



# **Introduction to Successful Inclusion of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (Part 1)**

# The Advocacy Network on Disabilities

## MISSION

The Advocacy Network on Disabilities champions the rights of individuals with intellectual, developmental, and other disabilities by promoting inclusion, providing services, and advancing systems change.

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

# Our Services

- **FAMILY SUPPORT:** Experienced, family-friendly staff help people with disabilities and their families identify and access services.
- **ALL CHILDREN TOGETHER (ACT):** An initiative of The Children's Trust, project staff work with the organizations it funds to increase their capacity to provide quality, inclusive programs.
- **SYSTEMS ADVOCACY:** Seeking change that can help many people at once, staff works to change policies, rules or laws that determine how services are provided.

# Autism Spectrum Disorder

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)  
is a complex neurological condition  
that affects two main areas:

## **Social Communication**

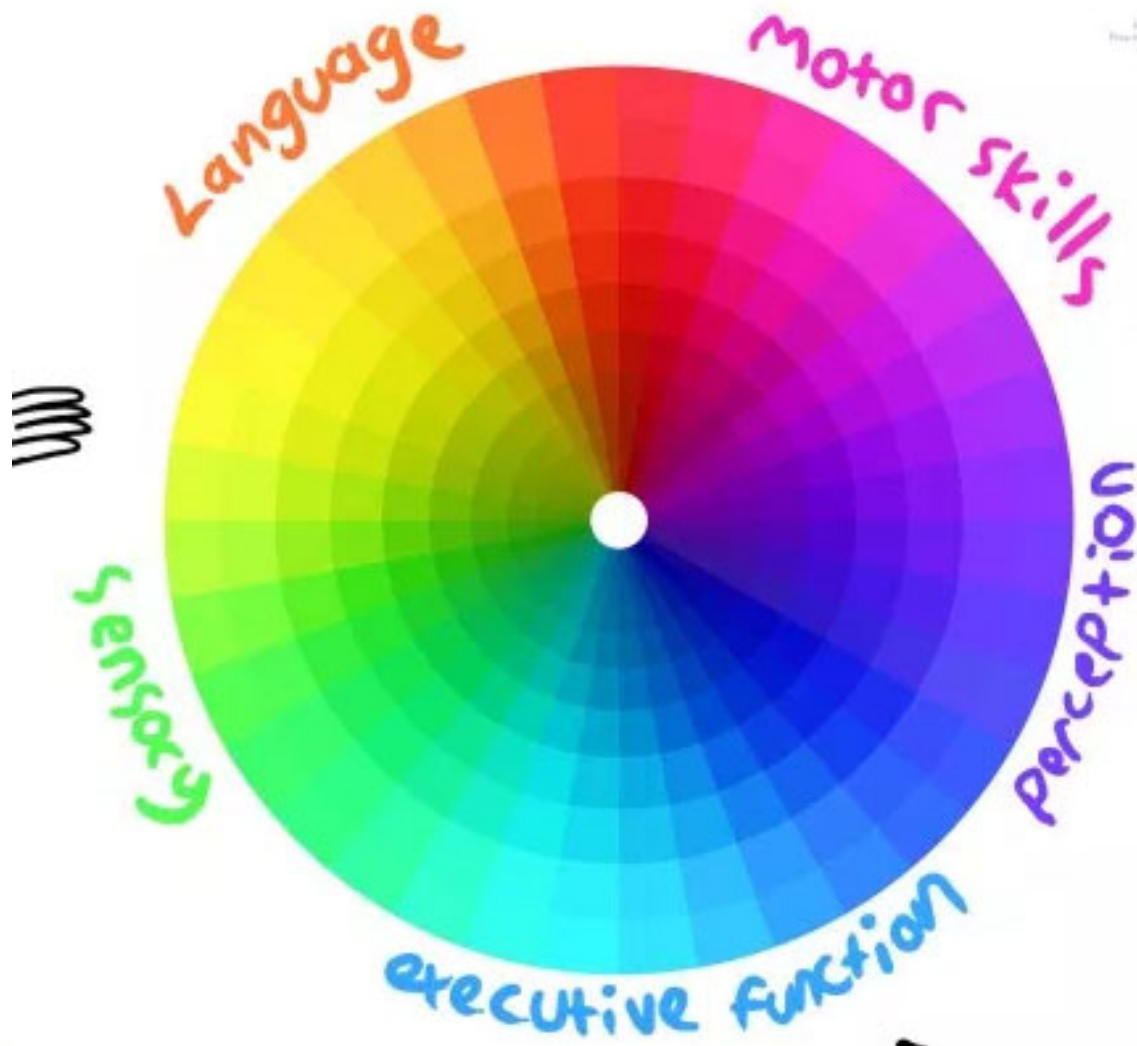
(Difficulty communicating and interacting with others)

## **Repetitive/Restrictive Behaviors & Interests**

The latest research shows brain differences can be detected  
through an MRI in children as young as 6-12 months.

(Nature, International Weekly Journal of Science, 2017)

# Another Way to Look At The Spectrum



Each person with autism will have a set of traits all in different areas of the spectrum.

# Incidence of Autism

## 1970

**1  
in  
10,000**

## TODAY

**1  
in  
44**

Center for Disease Control and Prevention. "Autism Spectrum Disorders: Facts about ASDs." Center for Disease Control and Prevention. 2010. Division of Birth Defects, National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 19 March 2012:

# **Supporting Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder**



# Getting To Know Me



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## "Getting to Know Me"

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

D.O.B. \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

We want to get to know your child better so that we can provide the best possible educational experience.  
No one knows your child better than you. Tell us more about your child.

### 1. We want to know about your child's favorite/least favorite toys/activities/rewards:

Favorite

Least favorite

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### 2. What calms your child and what upsets your child?

Calms

Upsets

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### 3. How does your child communicate?

- ☐ Verbally ☐ Through gestures (i.e., pointing, pulling, blinking) ☐ American Sign Language (ASL)  
☐ With vocalizations ☐ With communication devices (i.e., pictures)  
☐ Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

### 4. What services does your child receive?

- ☐ Speech/Language Therapy ☐ Behavioral ☐ Physical Therapy  
☐ Mental Health Counseling ☐ Occupational Therapy ☐ None

May we contact your service provider to better support your child? ☐ Yes ☐ No (Signed authorization form required)

### 5. Does your child require assistive devices or equipment? (i.e., braces, walker, wheelchair, communication device, insulin, nebulizer)

☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, please describe \_\_\_\_\_

### 6. Do you suspect your child has a hearing or vision problem?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please describe \_\_\_\_\_

### 7. Which statement best describes your child's ability to move from one activity to another?

- ☐ Easily moves from one activity to the other ☐ Needs assistance to move from one activity to the other

Please explain \_\_\_\_\_

### 8. Does your child play/interact best (please check all that apply):

- ☐ Independently ☐ With another child ☐ Small group ☐ Large group ☐ Outdoor  
☐ Indoor ☐ With adults ☐ Additional comments: \_\_\_\_\_



<https://www.thechildrenstrust.org/content>

Look under

"Participant Forms and Incident Reporting"

<http://www.advocacynetwork.org/services/act-resource-network/>

Look under

"Inclusion Readiness Forms"



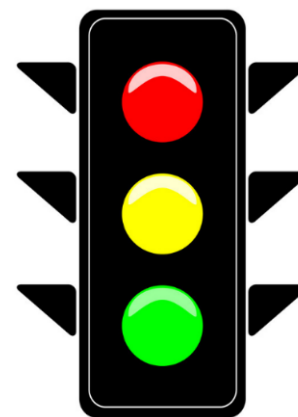
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# Visual Support Strategies

# What are visual supports?

A visual support is a picture or other visual item used to communicate with a child who has difficulty understanding or using language.



**WE ALL** rely on visual supports!

# Why Are Visual Supports Helpful to Individuals with ASD?

- Many people with ASD are “visual learners”
- Some do not always understand spoken instructions
- They help clarify social and behavioral expectations in all settings, including a structured classroom setting

# Visual Schedules

breakfast



outside



snack



Lunch



rest time



# Visual Schedules

good morning 	wake up 	use bathroom 	breakfast 	get dressed 	sun screen 
morning <b>AM</b> 	review schedule 	beach 	swim 	walk 	go to store 
afternoon <b>PM</b> 	lunch 	quiet time 	snack 	play outside 	dinner 
good night 	bathe 	brush teeth 	pyjamas 	story 	sleep 

# Additional Visual Supports



Using a timer to signal  
“how much longer”



Showing a sample of a  
completed art project

# **Recognizing and Accommodating Unique Sensory Needs**



# Sensory Awareness



# Common Examples



Fire Alarms



Phones Ringing



Fireworks



Finger Paint



Bright Light



Some Clothing

# Cool Down Corner



# Communication and Social Competence

# To Foster Social Competence: Use Clear and Direct Feedback

<u>Abstract Feedback</u>	<u>Clear/Direct Feedback</u>
“Stay on-task”	“As soon as you finish your art project, you can go to the computer”
“Be a good listener”	“Look at me when I’m talking, it helps me know you are listening”
“Stop annoying everyone in the class!!”	“Use a soft voice when we are talking in the classroom.”
“You know what you are supposed to be doing”	“Check your schedule and come tell me what activity you should be doing”

Notbohm, E. (2005). Ten Things Every Child with Autism Wishes You Knew. Arlington, TX: Future Horizons.

# Safety



# Wandering

Families cite wandering as the most stressful behavior they face

According to the National Autism Association

- 1/2 of children with ASD have successfully wandered from adult supervision
- For children with ASD younger than 14, accidental drowning accounted for 91% of U.S. deaths



# Identification for Children and Youth with ASD



Wallet Card  
[justdigit.org/](http://justdigit.org/)



Medical  
Bracelet



Wearable QR  
Code  
[ifineedhelp.org/](http://ifineedhelp.org/)

