

## Autism Spectrum Disorder

**Building on Strengths to Overcome Challenges**



## What is autism spectrum disorder?

A neurobiological disorder of development that causes differences in the way information is processed. This difference affects the ability to:

- Understand and use language to communicate
- Understand and relate to people, events and objects
- Understand and respond to sensory stimuli
- Learn and think in the same way as typically developing children

## Autism Spectrum Disorder

- Autism
- High-Functioning Autism
- Asperger Syndrome
- PDD-NOS (Pervasive Developmental Disorder-Not Otherwise Specified)

## Four Primary Areas of Difference

- Communication
- Social Interactions
- Behavior and Sensory Responses
- Thinking and Learning

## Areas of Difference Create Areas of Concern

- Self-help skills
- Meal time
- Following Class Routines and Rules
- Task Completion
- Safety
- Time Management
- Organizational Skills
- Social Interactions

## Strengths for Learning New Skills

- Take in chunks of information quickly
- Remember information for a long time
- Use visual information meaningfully
- Learn long routines and have motivation to repeat familiar routines
- Understand and use concrete rules
- Concentrate on topics of specific interests

## Keys to Building Skills with Autism

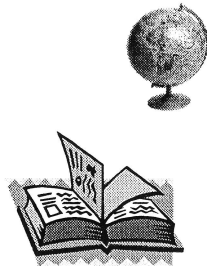
- Simplify
- Interests and motivators
- Visual Structure
- Sensory Strategies
- Quantify
- Consistency

## Simplify

- Break tasks down into simplest steps.
- Consider underlying skills and limitations.

## Interests and Motivators

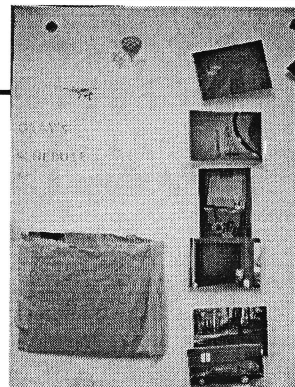
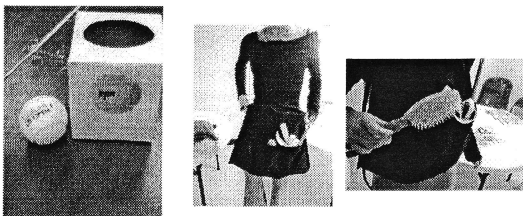
- Obsessions
- Will work for:
  - computer time,
  - videos,
  - chocolate,
  - high fives



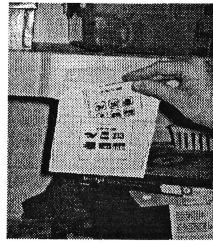
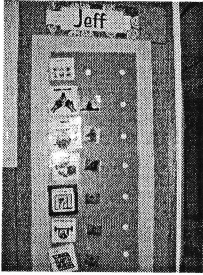
## Visual Structure

- Schedules
- Checklists
- Bins/Folders/Compartments
- Charts
- Cues in the environment

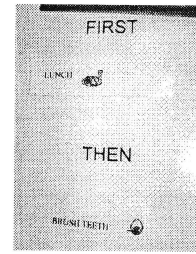
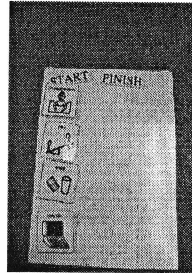
## Object Schedules



### Picture Schedules



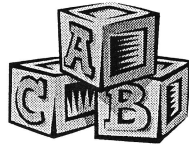
### Variations of Picture Schedules



First



Then



First



Then



### Choice Boards—Object Level

