

All Kinds of Brains

Teacher Resource Guide

School can be stressful and overwhelming for Autistic students. There are numerous sensory, social, emotional, and executive functioning demands that should be supported throughout the day. The strategies below are suggested to help alleviate these demands and allow Autistic students an equitable opportunity to take part in the classroom.

Use a Strengths-Based Approach

- ◆ focus on strengths, not support needs
- ◆ teach students how to advocate for help
- ◆ build interests into a student's day and work
- ◆ encourage self-advocacy and independence
- ◆ presume competence

Model Positive Perspectives on Diversity

- ◆ talk about neurodiversity and answer students' questions
- ◆ celebrate strengths and differences regularly
- ◆ help students find common interest with peers
- ◆ share content with diverse perspectives

Accommodate Executive Function Differences

- ◆ use visuals to establish classroom routines
- ◆ use visual reminders of class rules
- ◆ break down large tasks into smaller steps
- ◆ create clear and predictable routines
- ◆ provide clear and specific instructions
- ◆ support verbal instructions with a visual
- ◆ allow time for students to work together

Create a Sensory Friendly Classroom

- ◆ build in relaxation breaks
- ◆ use reduced or natural lighting, where possible
- ◆ provide access to sensory/focus tools
- ◆ consider alternative seating options

Share Stories with Neurodiverse Characters

Elementary

- ◆ All My Stripes by Shaina Rudolph & Danielle Royer
- ◆ Bitsy Bat, School Star by Kaz Windness
- ◆ My Life with Autism by Mari Schuh
- ◆ Video: [Nancy Learns About Autism](#)

Secondary

- ◆ Uniquely Wired by Julia Cook
- ◆ Anything But Typical by Nora Baskin
- ◆ Video: [What Is Neurodiversity?](#)
- ◆ Video: [Play to Your Strengths](#)
- ◆ Video: [What it Feels Like to be Autistic](#)

Resources for Teachers and Caregivers

Online

- ◆ [Kerry's Place Autism Services Resource Portal](#)
- ◆ [Autism Research Institute](#)
- ◆ [Neurodiversity: The Key that Unlocked My World](#)
- ◆ [Human Neurodiversity Should be Celebrated](#)
- ◆ [Learning and Development at Kerry's Place Autism Services](#)

Books

- ◆ Inclusive Education for Autistic Children; Dr Rebecca Wood
- ◆ Hidden Brilliant; Lynn Koegel & Claire LaZebnik
- ◆ Autism and Education; Temple Grandin
- ◆ All About Autism; Lynn McCann
- ◆ I Am Special; Peter Vermeulen

For more information, contact Kerry's Place Autism Services:

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Resource Portal**