

TEACHING AUTISTIC PEOPLE

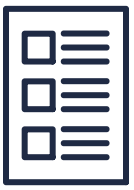
Strategies from autistic author and consultant, Judy Endow, MSW

STABILIZATION



INTERNAL REGULATION (SENSORY DIET)

Autistics have a neurology that means many systems (sensory, emotions, movement) in their body do not automatically regulate.



EXTERNAL REGULATION (INTERACTIVE VISUAL SCHEDULE)

It is often helpful for the schedule of events to be interactive – meaning the student needs to do something with the schedule before each transition.



RELATIONSHIP

I am visually instructing how schedules work while getting the student's sensory system regulated and doing that in the context of forming a positive relationship.

INSTRUCTION



IDENTIFY & TEACH NEEDED SKILLS

Besides academic instruction, students with autism often have particular skills for which they need to receive direct instruction.



ENSURE SUCCESS BY DECREASING TASK DEMANDS

Differentiated Instruction is one way to reduce educational task demands to match the needs of an individual student while ensuring them opportunity to learn along with their peers even though he may not have the same personal resources to bring to the task.



REINFORCEMENT

Tangible reinforcement tied to learning has been shown to work better than social reinforcement.

NOTE: I realize ABA therapy has had a history of using reinforcement in a punitive manner tied to repetitious drilling, often in quite disrespectfully. This makes punishment, demeaning drilling and disrespect wrong. It does not make reinforcement wrong. All human beings benefit from positive reinforcement.