

Please share with your colleagues

September 2023

The Autism Friendly Classroom

The classroom environment and organisation of the space is crucial to support autistic people in the classroom as navigating the classroom environment can be overwhelming. The following strategies can support the development of an autism friendly classroom. A young person with autism sees the world from a different viewpoint. Encourage them to share their experiences in a safe environment to help you to try to see the world through the autism lens, from the perspective of the young person.

Building Success

- Build a positive and nurturing learning environment where pupils feel safe and comfortable.
- Create positive reinforcements within the environment.
- Strategies implemented to support the young person can take time to embed into a child's routine and understanding. Be patient. This can take time, dedication and patience.

Classroom Environment

- Establish clear daily lesson routines and regularly remind students of the order of the day with reference to a visual timetable.
- Provide advance warning and reasons for change where possible. Timers can be used to show the time remaining before a change.
- Ensure learning environment, visual aids, and lessons are structured and clear to provide predictability and help to reduce anxiety.
- Break tasks into clear, manageable steps that are displayed for reference throughout the lesson.
- Support the young person to understand what the finished outcome will look like and what they should do once a task is complete.
- Integrating a child's special interest into activities can help to motivate and engage a pupil in a learning task.

Communication

- Ensure the expectations of the young person are clear and consistent. Present reminders visually.
- Be calm and use simple, direct / literal language. Avoid the use of sarcasm, metaphors or idioms in general communication.
- Keep instructions simple. Try not to repeat them in a different format, as this will increase processing time.
- Allow the young person plenty of time to process the verbal language communicated and time to formulate a response.
- Support the young person to develop knowledge and provide opportunities to practice social skills to manage everyday social contexts and situations at school and in the wider community.

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Neurodiversity Hubs

NHS Derbyshire have commissioned a number of ND Hubs across the county. These have been created to support families with signposting to appropriate community support services. It's not necessary to have a diagnosis to access this facility. When we receive a poster from the NGS, we will share them with you so that you are able to display in schools, to enable families to access this support.

Schools that have delivered ND Advocate Courses this month:

Buxworth Primary	Pennine Way Junior
David Nieper	Riddings Junior
Eckington Camms Primary	Somercotes Junior
Grassmoor Primary	Somerlea Infants
Herbert Strutt Primary	Springwell Community
Melbourne Infants	Swanwick Primary
Newbold Primary	Whitfield St. James

Would you like to improve awareness,
acceptance and understanding of Autism in
your setting?

ND Advocates Cohort 4 training will take
place in Spring 2024.

Please contact

ND.Advocates@Derbyshire.gov.uk

for more information.

We have ND
Advocates in
65% Derbyshire
Schools

They've helped
to train 3500
Educators in
Derbyshire
Schools!