

Inclusive Learning Vision for Inclusion



WHAT IS AUTISM?

ASC is a neurological difference. It is a 'spectrum condition' that affects people differently and varies from each person.

Autism looks different for everyone, and each person with autism has a distinct set of strengths and challenges. Some autistic people can speak, while others are nonverbal or minimally verbal and communicate in other ways. Some have intellectual disabilities, while some do not. Some require significant support in their daily lives, while others need less support and, in some cases, live entirely independently

The exact causes have never been known however, research indicates that it is a combination of genetic, developmental and environmental factors which lead to neurodivergence.

STRENGTHS WITH AUTISM

Visual hypersensitivity

Autistic people can have extraordinary vision; with better visual hypersensitivity, pattern recognition and attention to detail.

Tunnel vision

The focus of attention can be found to be sharper, and a sharper spatial gradient of attention was observed.

Powerful memory system

Autistic people can have enhanced memory. This is due to our greater declarative memory. It is this memory that allows us to memorize many things.

Superior problem-solving

Autistic people are up to 40% faster at problem-solving, and appear to use perceptual regions of the brain to accelerate problem-solving.

Hyperfocus

Autistic people are able to exert an intense form of mental concentration or visualization (called hyperfocus) that focuses consciousness on a subject, topic, or task; and are significantly more able to focus for extended periods of times.

Lateral thinking

Research shows a link between autistic traits and unusual & novel ideas, which occurs due to their strong ability to think outside the box. In studies autistic people were far more likely to generate creative ideas than non-autistics.

COMMON CHALLENGES

Low theory of mind

This may cause one to make wrong assumptions in social situations, or misread or fail to read emotions, intentions, or cues from others.

Rigid/inflexible thinking

As a result of a high systemizing mechanism in autistic people, they do not tend to cope well with systems of high variance or change.

Sensory overload

Autistic people filter out less sensory information, meaning more information has to be processed. This makes us prone to sensory overload

Dysregulation

When an autistic person is triggered by social stress and/or sensory overload, a dysregulation can occur, which sometimes present as distress or emotional distress.

Shutdowns

A shutdown is a response to social stress or sensory overload, after which the person becomes unresponsive or even immobile.

Prone to addiction

It is very common for autistic people to develop addictions to things such as iPads, phones, certain toys or other sensory inputs. This can require careful management to prevent issues arising.

ASC STRATEGIES



Short, simple instructions



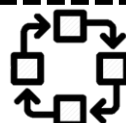
Use a range of visual & auditory stimuli



Reduce noise levels



Regularly check understanding



Chunk task information & instruction



Repeat instructions



Keep talk time to a minimum



Use of visual prompts



Build relationships



Praise the positives

BEING INCLUSIVE IS A WHOLE SCHOOL APPROACH