Is your classroom ready for a student with ASD?

HANDS in Autism® Interdisciplinary Training & Resource Center is located within the Department of Psychiatry at the Indiana University School of Medicine. Support for the foundational development of the HANDS in Autism® Center has been provided through a combination of federal and state funding as well as private philanthropies. To learn more, please contact Naomi Swiezy, Ph.D. HSPP, Director, at nswiezy@iupui.edu.

Structure

Do any of your students:
- Tend to escape from an area?
- Tend to escape from a classroom/building?
- Tend to climb furniture?

When a student with ASD enters your classroom, will he/she be able to understand without much or any assistance:
- Where to sit (work with teacher, leisure area)? [Physical Structure]
- Where to leave their books, notebooks, or schedules? [Physical Structure]
- What are the borders of each area that should not be crossed if not scheduled? [Physical Structure]
- Does the layout of the furniture in your classroom address behavioral challenges, like escaping, etc.?
- Designation/marking of each area? [Visual Structure]
- Whether the marking coincides with their visual schedule [Visual Structure]
- How to behave in each area/expectations? [Visual Structure]
- How to self-manage? [Visual Structure]
- How to proceed through an activity? [Visual Structure]
- How to manage time? [Visual Structure]
- Where to check their schedule [Visual Structure]

Planning for a Student

- Do you have a clear plan how to assess students’ level of knowledge?
- Do you have a clear plan how to assess students’ strengths and interests?
- Have you taken considerations students’ behavioral challenges?
- Do you have a clear plan on how to collaborate with parents of your students with ASD?
- Do you have a plan on how to collect data on your students to see whether the student progresses and his/her behavioral problems reduce or escalate?
- Do you have a clear plan on how to analyze this data?

Day Planning

- Do you have student master schedule created? [Choreography]
- Does your student schedule reflect students’ strengths, weaknesses, and interests?
- Do you have staff master schedule created? [Choreography]
- Does your staff schedule reflect their strengths and interests?
- Is your staff prepared on how to address [Choreography]
- Do you have a plan on how to train your support staff?

If you are not sure how to address any of these challenges, HANDS in Autism® is here to help. We offer online and live trainings at our locations or yours. Check our website for more information and what our training participants have to say. Email hands@iupui.edu with questions.