



SPEECH THERAPY NEWS

TOP 10 COMMUNICATION TIPS!

When working with students with autism and other neuro - development differences it is important to...

1. **Make it visual! i.e.** Providing the same schedule throughout the day may ease times of stress during transitions if the student can see what is happening next.
2. **Use literal and direct directions. i.e** "Get your blue book." It is important to note that some students have difficulty following more than one direction.
3. **Avoid idiomatic phrases or sarcasm.** Many students with autism have a difficult time deciphering the meaning and or may take it literally.
4. **Avoid abstract or vague terms.** i.e. 'later,' 'some time,' etc. as many students with autism struggle with these concepts.
5. **Only one teacher should talk to a student during escalated moments.** Too many teachers talking to a student at once is very overwhelming and difficult for the student to process.
6. **Know the triggers of anxiety or stress for each student.** i.e. Pacing, hand-wringing, cursing, flushed face, laughing, stating certain phrases over and over, etc.
7. **Consistency is key!** It is difficult for many children with autism to take what they learn in one setting (i.e. school) to others (i.e. the home). For example, a student may use sign language at school to communicate, but never think to do so at home. Consistency in every environment is the best way to reinforce learning.
8. **Give time to process what was said.** Some students need more time to process language.
9. **Provide immediate reinforcement for specific positive behaviors.** i.e. "I like how you asked for your snack."
10. **Make every moment teachable.**



References: Quill, K. (1995) Teaching children with autism: Strategies to enhance communication and socialization. Albany, NY: Delmar Publishers