



Autism Classroom Magazine

Your Autism Classroom

A Teaching Plan

From AutismClassroom.com's book *How To Set Up a Work Area at Home for a Child with Autism*

Having a plan of action is critical to the success of teaching a lesson. When developing a plan for teaching, remember to include the following items:

- **Teaching Plan**
- **Skill or Skills to be Addressed**
- **Materials Needed**
- **Plan to Make the Materials**
- **Ideas for Data Collection**
- **Teaching Technique to be Used**
- **Motivators/Preferred Items/Reinforcers**

Contents

Special Interest Articles

Your Autism Classroom	1
Shopping Made Easier	2
The Home Link	3

Individual Highlights

Tips	4
Consultation Station	6
Teacher "Must Haves"	8
Cool Sites	9

**Please feel free to copy, distribute or email this publication to other educators and family members of your child or student/students with autism.

Featured Article: Holiday Shopping Made Easier for Parents of Children with Special Needs

Advice and Top Toy Picks from the Kennedy Krieger Institute and Parents' Choice Foundation



For more information on the Kennedy Krieger Institute, visit www.kennedykrieger.org.

Holiday shopping is overwhelming – especially for parents and caregivers of children with special needs. Yet, with a few smart shopping tips, fulfilling holiday gift lists can be a breeze.

Purchasing toys and games for a child with special needs does not have to be more complicated than buying a toy for a typically developing child. Cost, safety, educational value, age-appropriateness – and of course, your child's interest – are all factors that don't change. Look for toys that help build skills that meet therapeutic goals and those that balance a child's developmental age with her/his chronological age. Avoid toys that needlessly put a child in a win or lose situation.

"It is possible to find many good toy options for children with special needs in any toy store," says Elisa Mintz Delia of the Kennedy Krieger Institute, an institution devoted to improving the lives of children and adolescents with disorders of the brain, spinal cord and musculoskeletal system. "Many reasonably priced toys found at a variety of stores will engage and entertain children with special needs, as well as serve as learning and skill-building tools."

The [Kennedy Krieger Institute](http://www.kennedykrieger.org) and [Parents' Choice Foundation](http://www.parentschoice.org), one of the nation's oldest and most respected authorities on children's media and toys, have been working together since 2007 to test and review toys and games for children with special needs. A multi-disciplinary team of licensed occupational, physical, speech and recreational therapists offers the following gift suggestions for children of all abilities.

Curious George Discovery Beach Game (Promotes visual and visual motor skills, thinking skills and socialization) In this seek-and-find board game, players draw a card with an animal or object listed on it and search the board (actually a box), which has five hidden treasure locations, to find that object. A game spinner keeps things interesting – if it lands on a wave, players have to shake the box, which moves the treasures.

Hedbanz (Encourages thinking skills, socialization and communication) This simple family game can be played by up to 10 people. Players wear a plastic headband with a card depicting an object or animal on it and take turns asking other players yes or no questions that will help them to guess what is on their card.

Bubble Talk (Fosters thinking skills, socialization and communication) This game involves 75 double-sided picture cards and 300 caption cards. Each player draws seven caption cards, and a judge draws a photo card. Players then choose and lay down the caption card that they feel best matches the photo. The judge chooses the funniest caption and that player earns points.

Bop It Bounce (Helps build gross motor skills and sensory motor skills) This electronic game with audio instructions guides players through six activities. Players bounce a ball on a hand-held cone, and the activities test their ability to control how the ball bounces, their speed or their endurance.

U- Build Connect Four (Develops thinking skills, fine motor skills, visual skills and visual motor skills) A game that takes the original Connect Four concept and adds a bit of Plinko. It is a board game constructed from interlocking pieces that allows children to assemble the playing area. Players drop checkers down chutes and position a bumper to deflect their checker pieces into the correct column, trying to arrange four checkers of the same color in a row.

B. Spinaroos (Supports visual, fine motor and visual motor skills) This set of interlocking bits and blocks is a new and fun take on the classic version, and includes patterned pieces, pieces with faces and others with three legs and rotating connections. Children can build elaborate play scenarios and complex new worlds – all of their own vision.

"Whether you're shopping for a holiday, birthday or other occasion, remember that play is how children learn," says Claire Green, president of Parents' Choice Foundation. "Toys that have long term play value, have long term learning value."

Keeping this information in mind, family and friends will be better equipped to face the holiday shopping season in search of toys for children with special needs. For more tips on shopping for your special child and other top toy picks, visit the Parents' Choice Foundation Holiday Gift Guide at http://parentschoice.org/article.cfm?art_id=407&the_page=points_of_interest.

For more information on the Kennedy Krieger Institute, visit www.kennedykrieger.org.

The Home Link

PARENTINGAUTISM

Why Choosing the Label of Autism Impacts your Child's Growth

By: Angela MacDonald-Timpone

As we close out 2010, I have been thinking about choices. Every day, I make choices like what to eat for breakfast, if I exercise, or whether my children brush their teeth (sometimes I choose not to nag or argue). With choices comes consequences, good or bad, there will always be consequences. Recently I have meet parents that are making choices not to acceptance the diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) or some families that are refusing to have their child evaluated. Coping with the diagnosis of ASD can be one of the most difficult challenges for any parent, but not acting can only increase the likelihood of negative consequences.

For a controlling person, like myself (yes, I just said that— I like things done in a particular way) finding out that Tristan has ASD and that there was no cure and no prognosis, rocked my foundation. However, I knew that I needed to act and act quickly, as Tristan's brain was developing the most it would ever in his lifetime, so I jumped into therapies and diet altering and I did not allow myself to dwelling in fears of the diagnosis. These fears have merit:

- What if my kid is labeled and no one sees him just his label?
- What if my kid is segregated from others?
- What if you are labeled a bad parent?

Fear can stop the best parent in their tracks which leads to the consequence of your child not receiving the services they need when they need it. By not choosing to deal with the diagnosis, you make a choice, not to give your child the therapies they need.

In the first months of Tristan's diagnosis I went to every ASD conference in New England. As I sat in a crowd of doctors and parents at the Harvard Medical, the lecturer began by saying, "The label of autism is just a means to services it does not define who you are or who your child is."

That statement gave me permission to label my son, autistic, so Tristan could get the speech therapy, occupational therapy, behavioral therapy, and physical therapy he needed to grow. I made a choice to embrace, ASD, as a means to growing my child. With our choice came consequences like Tristan is now eight and fully intergraded in a regular education classroom with little support. Going into 2011 I am going to spend more time thinking about my choices and consequences.

About the Author:

When not chasing after her three boys, Angela writes and lectures about autism spectrum disorder and parenting. To learn more about Angela, and Parenting Autism (her company), visit www.parenting-autism.org. angela@parenting-autism.org

Ideas for 1:1 In – Home Service Providers and Parents

(An excerpt from AutismClassroom.com's book [How to Set Up a Work Area at Home for A Child with Autism](#))

GOING TO THE STORE

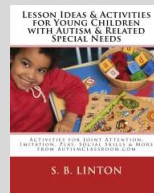
1. Provide your child with a visual list of what they will be looking for at the store (use pictures or possibly logos from the store flyer.)
2. Keep a "travel schedule" in your car to show all the places you will go to in addition to the store. Be sure to include a picture of home so they know when you will be done.
3. Use self check-out if needed. It is sometimes faster and you can have your child participate in the activity of checking the items. (This was a tip from a co-worker.)
4. Start slow if you have to. For some people, this will mean just going into the store and going back to the car. Then try going in to the store to by 1 item, like gum, at the register, then going to the car. Next, gradually add more items to the list. If you know your child will not handle it well, please do not start with a 30-list trip to the store.

For these and more ideas, checkout [How to Set Up a Work Area at Home for a Child with Autism](#) on AutismClassroom.com, Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble.com or request it at your local Barnes and Noble bookstore.

Autism Product Spotlight



This book is a great resource for those looking to address some of the sensory issues their child may be showing. The book gives activities and strategies for home and school.



This is AutismClassroom.com's new book [Lesson Ideas and Activities for Young Children with Autism and Related Special Needs](#). Each theme's unit provides 5 activity ideas specific to the following areas: Joint Attention, Imitation Skills, Communication, Self-Help Skills, Independent Skills, Pre-Vocational Skills, Social Skills, Play Skills, Sensory Involvement, Basic Concept Mastery, Vocabulary & Literacy, Fine Motor, and Gross Motor. Also included at the end of each chapter is an "Implementation Tip" related to one of the suggested activities.

<http://www.amazon.com/Lesson-Activities-Children-Related-Special-Needs>
[Special//dp/1453763864/ref=nr_1_1?ie=UTF8&+books&qid=1283260742&sr=8-1](http://www.amazon.com/dp/1453763864/ref=nr_1_1?ie=UTF8&+books&qid=1283260742&sr=8-1)

REAL CLASSROOMS



"Labeling student's work space helps to organize the classroom."

Administrator Tips

3 Things to look for in the autism classrooms in the building...

1. Social Skills lessons are included in the curriculum.
2. Video Modeling is investigated as a possible teaching technique.
3. Students are involved in structured social activities in the school building.

Tip of the Month:

Help parents with gift ideas for their child by sending a list of toys or activities that their child likes to use while at school. If possible, add the details of where they can find the products to help make the shopping experience a little easier.

**TOYS !
TOYS !
TOYS !**

<http://www.discoverytoyslink.com/esuite/home/bridgetpinkney>

Para-professional's Corner

Did you know that you could make bulletin board boarders using construction paper, by cutting the paper into long strips of rectangles? Make it festive by allowing each student to add their own design or glue on pre-made decorations! Make it a lesson for younger students by discussing the shape of the boarder, having them choose their color or design and by teaching fine motor skills through cutting, coloring, and the concept of gluing something onto something else.

Leadership Skills

Giving

Sometimes, the best gifts are free. Being a good leader includes acknowledging those that help to make the classroom run. This year, as a gift, include a list of the great qualities of each of the team members in your class. Place it in a card for them and give it as a gift. It will be a great way to say thank you and you are appreciated!

BABYSITTING TIPS FOR WATCHING CHILDREN WITH AUTISM

BY: THE AUTISM SITTER

1. Use pictures to help communicate and to help the child communicate with you.
2. Pete's Power Point Station is a cool website that has pre-made activities.

Please fill out this form then, fax it, mail it, or email the information to:

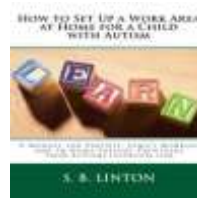
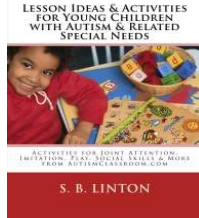
AutismClassroom.com
 P.O. Box 3234
 Catonsville, Maryland 21228
 Fax: 443-830-1308
 Email: autismchatboard@aol.com
 Order online:
www.autismclassroom.com

ORDER FORM

for AutismClassroom.com's books

How to Set Up a Classroom for Students with Autism
 &
How to Set Up a Work Area at Home for a Child with Autism
 &
Lesson Ideas and Activities for Young Children with Autism and Related Special Needs

School Purchase Orders
 Welcomed!



BILL To: (Please PRINT)

Name _____
 Title _____
 Organization _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ Fax _____

SHIP To: (Please PRINT)

Name _____
 Title _____
 Organization _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ Fax _____

Name of Item -Description	Quantity	Unit Price	Total Price
<i>How to Set Up a Classroom for Students with Autism: A Manual for Teachers, Para-professionals and Administrators</i> list price \$20.95			
<i>How to Set Up a Work Area at Home for a Child with Autism: A Manual for Parents, Families, and In-Home Support Providers</i> list price \$12.95			
<i>Lesson Ideas and Activities for Young Children with Autism and Related Special Needs</i> list price \$11.95			

PAYMENT METHOD:

___ Authorized Purchase Order # _____
 ___ PayPal (Contact us autismchatboard@aol.com)
 ___ Visa
 ___ Mastercard
 ___ Discover
 Card # _____
 Expiration Date _____
 Card Holder's Name (Print) _____
 Signature _____
 Check or Money Order (enclosed) payable to "Autism Classroom LLC"

*Shipping to the continental U.S.:

Up to \$50.....\$5.95
 \$50-500.....15%
 \$500-\$1500.....10%
 \$1500-\$2000.....5%
 Over \$2,000 ...free

*Shipping to AK & HI call or email for a freight quote.

Subtotal

Shipping*

TOTAL

Thank you!

CONSULTATION STATION



The issue: What can I do to keep the kids from walking out of line during transitions?

Consulation Station

(A close look at a classroom issue, student concern or educator's question, followed by recommendations and strategies.)

AutismClassroom.com's response:

One thing you can do is offer a visual support. This visual support can be in the form of "footprint" patterns taped to the floor, a piece of colored tape to show where to line up, or chairs to show students where to sit while waiting to move to the next activity. The picture below shows an example of a waiting area for young children.



LESSON IDEAS & ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG CHILDREN WITH AUTISM & RELATED SPECIAL NEEDS



ACTIVITIES FOR JOINT ATTENTION,
IMITATION, PLAY, SOCIAL SKILLS & MORE
FROM AUTISMCCLASSROOM.COM

S. B. LINTON

Introducing AutismClassroom.com's New Book
**Lesson Ideas and Activities for Young
Children with Autism and Related Special
Needs** \$11.95

Each unit has lesson ideas specific to the following areas:

- Joint Attention
- Imitation Skills,
- Communication,
- Self-Help Skills
- Independent Skills
- Pre-Vocational Skills
- Social Skills
- Play Skills
- Sensory Involvement
- Basic Concept Mastery
- Vocabulary & Literacy
- Fine Motor
- Gross Motor

HOW TO SET UP A CLASSROOM FOR STUDENTS WITH AUTISM



A MANUAL FOR TEACHERS, PARA-
PROFESSIONALS AND ADMINISTRATORS
FROM AUTISMCCLASSROOM.COM

S. B. LINTON

Some highlights of the book include:

- Detailed instructions about classroom set up
- Listed on Autism Speaks Resource page for books
- Ideas for collaborating with others
- Data collection strategies
- Behavior intervention plan development
- Support for those working with students with autism via the AutismClassroom.com website and the Ask.AutismClassroom.com questions & answer page

Available at Amazon.com or AutismClassroom.com



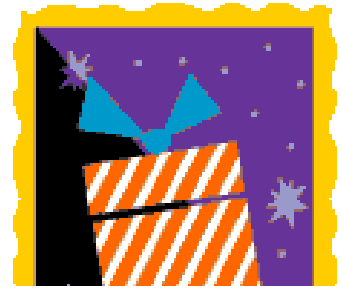
A SOCIAL SKILLS MAGAZINE?

A new publication called The Social Times is now available for children and teens with autism. The articles and other features in The Social Times apply to almost all children who need to work on social skills, self-understanding, and emotional and sensory regulation. For more information about our affiliate, click on the AAPC link above.

Building Independent Skills

Have fun wrapping gifts

Build independent skills by having your child or students practice wrapping gifts. Start with items that are sturdy and boxed. You can work on many skills such as cutting, folding and measuring during an activity like wrapping gifts. If taping items together is a little tricky for the child, try using a glue stick to bond the paper for the gifts together, then you can add a piece of tape at a later time. If it is easier, you can pre-cut the paper to various sizes and ask the child to guess which size would fit the gift you are wrapping.



TEACHER MUST HAVES

✓ TIME TIMER:

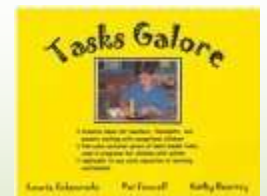


A Visual Timer is helpful for many children who are more responsive to visual learning.

✓ PICTURE CARDS:
This set of 350 vivid, beautifully photographed noun cards is an invaluable tool for teaching key language concepts to children with autism or other speech and language delays.



✓ TASK GALORE:



Written by teachers and therapists who are highly experienced in Structured Teaching methodology, this book offers a compilation of 250 tasks shown in color photographs.

Sensory Friendly Films ***(Autism Society of America)***

Some theaters across the country are participating in bringing the movie experience to families with children with Special Needs. These theaters and movie times offer parents the following benefits:

- lights brought up and the sound turned down,
- families will be able to bring in their own gluten-free, casein-free snacks, and
- no previews or advertisements will be shown before the movie.
- freedom for audience members

For more information see: <http://www.autism-society.org/site/PageServer?pagename=sensoryfilms>

[AutismClassroom.com](http://www.autismclassroom.com)

P.O. Box 3234
Catonsville, MD 21228
autismchatboard@aol.com

Question. Discuss. Learn.

Find us on the Web:
www.autismclassroom.com/home




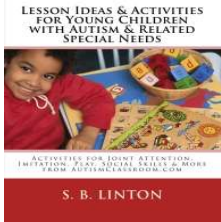

A Resource for Parents

[How to Set Up a Work Area at Home for a Child with Autism: A Manual for Parents, Families and In-Home Support Providers](#)



Cool Sites

Email AutismChatboard@aol.com for details.

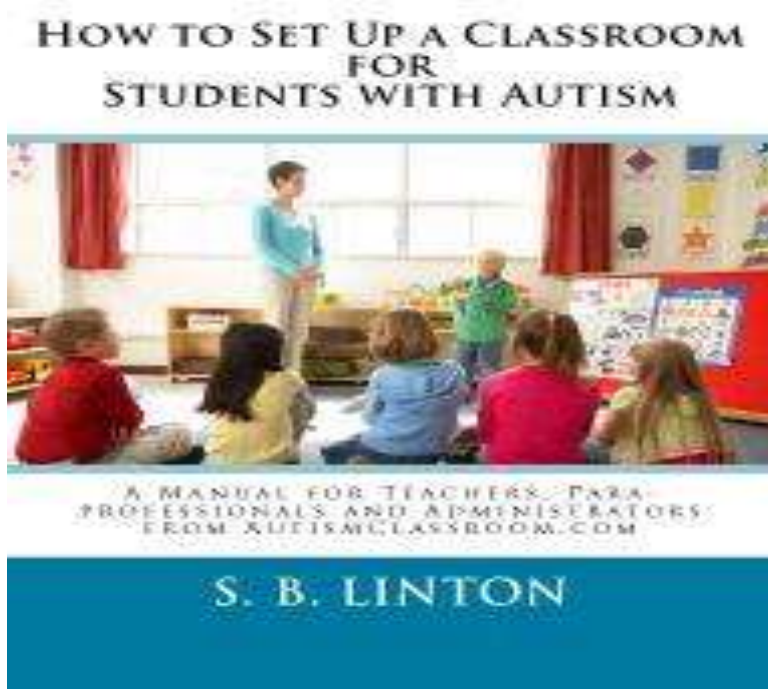
<p>AutismClassroom.com The place where teachers learn. www.autismclassroom.com/home</p>	<p>Discovery Toys Check out our great finds for kids with autism. http://www.discoverytoyslink.com/esuite/home/bridgetpinkney</p>
<p>Individual Consulting Consultation for visual learners. www.individualconsultingllc.com</p>	<p>TOUCHMATH The alphabet of mathematics. www.touchmath.com</p>
<p> Better Playgrounds. Better World. www.playlsi.com</p>	<p> <u>Lesson Ideas and Activities for Young Children with Autism</u></p>
<p>Follow us on Twitter </p>	<p>Follow us on Facebook two ways... http://facebook.com/#!/pages/Autism-Classroom/30958373294?ref=ts or search for us "AutismClassroom Web"</p>
<p>NEW!!!!--Ask Autism Classroom Questions and Answers Page (Your Response is Needed) www.ask.autismclassroom.com</p>	<p><u>6000 members and counting...</u> <u>ADVERTISE WITH US</u> Contact: AutismChatboard@aol.com</p>

www.autismclassroom.com/home

Please spread the word about autism to your friends, family, and co-workers. (Forward this Autism Classroom Magazine please!) Information is power and the more we have, the better we can support and encourage the people in our lives that have autism. If you like the resources we offer, start here at AutismClassroom.com by referring a friend, family member or co-worker to join our mailing list today!

How to Set Up a Classroom for Students with Autism: A Manual for Teachers, Para-Professionals and Administrators \$20.95

This 80-page manual is for teachers, paraprofessionals, related service providers and administrators new to working with students with autism or for professionals who would like to enhance their current autism classroom set-up. The manual is easy to read and is full of great ideas for setting up your autism classroom. With items such as detailed instructions about classroom set up, ideas for collaborating with others, data collection ideas and behavior intervention plans, this manual is sure to be a major support for any professional working in a classroom for students with autism!



Some highlights of the book include:

- Detailed instructions about classroom set up
- Listed on Autism Speaks book Resources page
- Ideas for collaborating with others
- Data collection strategies
- Behavior intervention plan development
- Support for those working with students with autism via the AutismClassroom.com website and the Ask.AutismClassroom.com questions and answer page

Available at Amazon.com or AutismClassroom.com