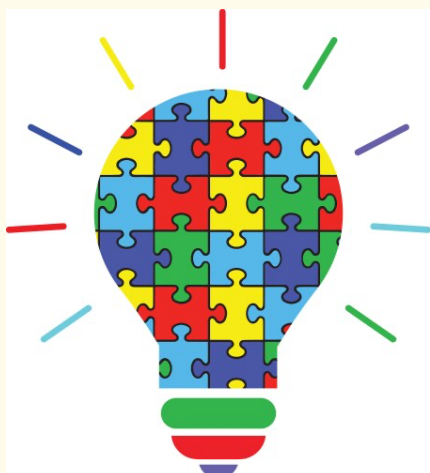


AUTISM ACCOMMODATIONS

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

What is Autism? Autism Spectrum Disorder impacts an individual's development. It can lead to challenges in communication, restricted interests, and repetitive behaviors.

CHALLENGES



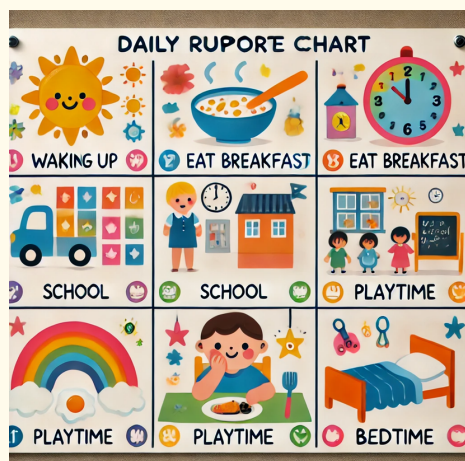
Students with autism encounter challenges in traditional classrooms due to sensory sensitivities and difficulties with communication and social interactions. Without specific accommodations, they may find it hard to engage with the curriculum effectively, resulting in gaps in academic success and inclusion.

SOULTIONS

Classrooms that incorporate personalized support such as sensory tools, visual aids, and flexible communication strategies enhance engagement, academic achievement, and social inclusion for students with autism, promoting fair learning environments.



VISUAL SUPPORTS



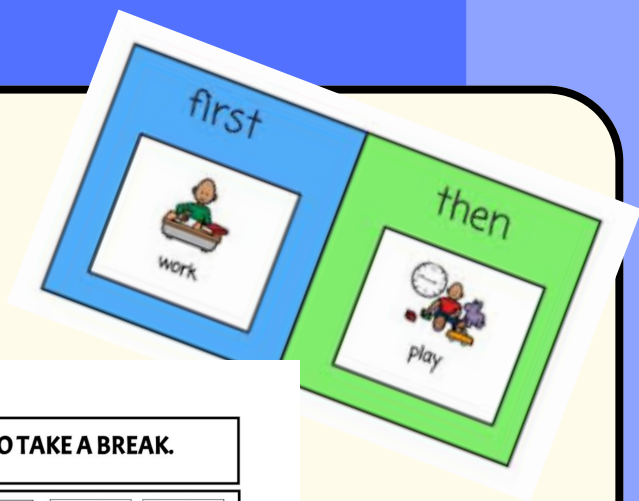
Visual Supports assist in:

- Comprehension
- Behavior Support
- Organization
- Attention
- Auditory Processing

Visual supports foster equity and neurodiversity in the classroom by offering alternative communication and comprehension methods tailored to the diverse needs of students.

IMPLEMENTATION

- Ensure at eye level
- Individualization
- Practice by making it a routine.



ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Assistive Technology (AT) refers to any device, equipment, software application, or product system designed to enhance, sustain, or boost the functional abilities of individuals with disabilities.

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ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY CAN SUPPORT AUTISTIC STUDENTS IN:

- LEARNING
- SOCIAL SKILLS
- COMMUNICATION
- SENSORY REGULATION



ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROMOTES EQUITY AND NEURODIVERSITY IN THE CLASSROOM BY PROVIDING ALL STUDENTS WITH THE NECESSARY RESOURCES TO SUCCEED.

EXAMPLES OF ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

- COMMUNICATION BOARD
- NOISE-CANCELING HEADPHONES
- CALCULATORS
- AUDIOBOOKS
- VISUAL TIMER



IMPLEMENTATION

- Evaluate students needs
- Discuss needs at the IEP meeting
- Set goals, monitor and assess impact
- Train staff and students

Table 1 Results of Assistive Technology Impacting Speech Difficulties					
Author	Sample Size	Type of Study	Age of Participants	Measures	Main Findings
Ennis-Cole & Smith (2011)	85	Case-Control	10-17 years	Variety of high-tech AT tools: PDAs, robots, vibrating pagers, switch training, voice output communication aids, microswitch communication systems, touch-sensitive screens, and computer-based language	Devices were successfully used to improve a wide variety of skills including communication, self-help, motivation, and appropriate behavior

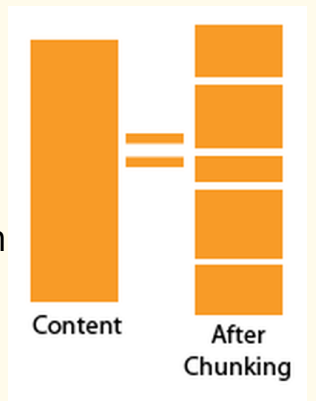
CHUNKING

What is Chunking?-Chunking is dividing assignments, projects, or texts into smaller, manageable sections that help simplify information processing.

Example of chunking:

Instead of tackling all 20 math problems at once, work on 5 at a time, following clear steps and taking short breaks. This approach helps maintain focus and fosters a sense of accomplishment.

Breaking down assignments into smaller parts helps create fairness and supports students with different learning needs. This approach offers personalized assistance, minimizes feelings of being overwhelmed, and enables all students, including those with learning differences, to progress at their own speed.



IMPLEMENTATION

1. Determine the specific assignment or text to be chunked according to the student's needs.
2. Divide the assignment or text into smaller, manageable sections based on the student's comprehension level.
3. Assign a section for the student to work on and clarify the expected completion time.
4. Teach the student how to approach these smaller tasks and read the text, providing a rubric or graphic organizer for guidance.
5. Observe the student during their work, track their progress, and modify tasks as necessary.
6. Offer consistent, specific feedback, including both positive reinforcement and constructive criticism.
7. Communicate the student's progress and the effectiveness of the approach with the student, educational team, and family.



RESEARCH

Bollin et al., performed a systematic review of 21 peer-reviewed studies on assistive technology (AT) for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

They discovered that tools like iPad apps, social robots, and communication devices effectively enhanced language skills, social interactions, and motor abilities.



Summary

Strategies such as visual aids, assistive technology, and chunking enhance learning for students with autism by simplifying processes and making information more accessible. By using visual aids to clarify instructions, assistive technology to facilitate communication, and breaking down assignments into manageable parts, educators can foster a nurturing classroom atmosphere where students with autism can excel.



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