

**“From Pre-School to High School
to Beyond School:
How to Target and Teach Critical
Skills that Lead to Later
Employment Success”**

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**Post-Secondary Employment
Concerns**

- Limited rate of employment and tendency to be “under employed”.
 - Cathy Pratt, Autism Society of Wisconsin, 95% unemployment among post-secondary individuals with ASD
 - Brenda Smith Myles, San Diego Autism Society, employment rate as low as 3% for individuals with AS
 - Herman T. Fishbein, Ed.D, University of Miami Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (C.A.R.D.) , 75% of individuals with ASD unemployed or under-employed.
 - More than 50% of those who gain employment lose jobs soon after being employed.
 - Vocational Support Program (Ohio State University) estimates unemployment rate as high as 85%

**Post-Secondary Employment Concerns
cont’d:**

- Some higher functioning students with ASD are returning to more functional educational programs following high school graduation.
- Academic achievement does not offset poorly developed social communication and daily living skills.

Major issues associated with poor employment outcomes

- Ability to work independently
- Social communication
- Planning and organization
- Daily living skills, particularly in the area of grooming

10 Skills to Teach a Child in Preparation for Life after High School

Diane Adreon, Associate Director:

University of Miami, Nova Southeastern Center for Autism and Related Disorders.
AAPC Newsletter, Winter 2005-2006

www.asperger.net

1. Teach student to wake up to an alarm clock.

2. Teach student to use a clock or watch to monitor timed tasks.

Helpful strategies when teaching time to young students with ASD

Use of clock faces and clock formats during early matching activities.

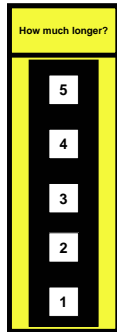


www.tinsnips.org
www.themathworksheetsite.com
www.dotolearn.com

Pre-transition strategies that emphasize the passage of time

- Count Down Card
- “One More Minute” Card
- Timers

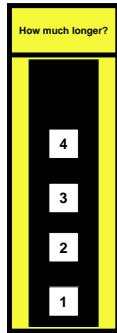
The "Count Down" Card



Accessibility

Front

Back



Pre-transition strategies



Adapted clocks and watches
as teaching tools

Teaching Hands Clock
www.autismcoach.com



- Highlights correct hour and minute intervals.
- Shape at end of each hand helps student focus on correct hour or minute numeral.
-

Magnetic Matching Clock
www.autismcoach.com



- Magnetic pieces for number to number matching, fill in the number, etc. for minutes and hours
- Three pairs of hands – conventional clock hands in black and in color as well as teaching hands
- \$39.00 with Teaching Hands Wall Clock

Visual Thermometer
www.autismcoach.com



- Shows what clothes to wear at what temperatures.
- Choice of three clock faces to accommodate regional climates
- \$25.00

www.timeteachingwatch.com

\$16.00



Dinosaur
Time Teaching
Watch®

Learning to use a timer

Teach Timer

www.newmanagement.com



- Can function as a timer or a clock
- Can stand alone for use by small groups
- Projects on any standard overhead projector
- Has pre-alarm warning and "Time's up" alarm.
- \$40.00 plus tax

Time Timer

www.timetimer.com



- Silent
- Battery operated
- Range in size from 3 inches to 12 inches.
- Price: \$30.00 plus tax to \$40.00 plus tax depending on size

The Watch Minder

www.watchminder.com



- Training and Reminder modes.
- Vibrates
- Can choose from list of pre programmed messages or choose own.
- \$69.00

Timer Activities

- Learning to respond to a variety of auditory timing signals.
- Learning to operate a timer:
 - Turn the timer off
 - Set timer for a specific time
 - Activate timer
- Learning to multi-task when using a timer.
- Timed work drills and play and leisure activities.
- Recording time for target tasks and activities.

- Using a timer while learning to “wait”



3. Teach student to be adequately groomed

Helpful strategies when teaching young students with ASD:

- Setting and teaching to standards of grooming:
 - Bathe within last 24 hours
 - Hair clean and combed or brushed
 - Deodorant
 - Clean clothing
- Independent handwashing
 - Melodic timing
 - Counts and chants
 - “Organizer Stories”

- Brushing teeth
 - Simple task organizer
 - Early desensitization strategies
 - Vibrating toothbrush, sound output toothpaste tube
- Haircuts
 - Frequent, quick and easy cuts
 - Reinforcers
 - Distractors and/or calming strategies
 - VCR
 - Favorite foods
 - Crunchies to calm and mask sound
 - Body sock, etc.
 - Pre-transition strategy with choicemaking component:
 - How many times combing section of hair?
 - Powder, brush and clean set of clothes

- Bathing
 - Task organizer
 - “Organizer Stories” to teach equipment and self washing steps.
 - Pump and foam liquid soaps
 - Accommodations such as filled sink of water for handwashing
- www.littlefriendsinc.com
- www.special-kids.com

4. Teach student to be responsible for his or her own things

- Use of color as early means of teaching possession
- Spacemats
- Here Card
- Boundaries appropriate for visual conceptual level and attentional skills
- Labels
- Social stories and power cards
- "Get It Right Away"

5. Teach use of use visual cues to remember tasks.

Helpful strategies for teaching young students with ASD to use memory aids

- Forward moving schedule system with receivers
- Reminder scripts
- Storage labels
- Organizer/reminder displays
 - Bumper Stickers, embedded schedules, Power Cards, “Signs”

***Schedule use:
One of the best predictors of
employment success!!!!***

6. Teach to cook or prepare simple snacks that do not require cooking.

Helpful Strategies for Teaching Cooking to Young Students with ASD

- Activities that teach vocabulary and function during kitchen play
- Snack jigs to practice preparing and setting up for snack routines
- Worksheet and other two dimensional practice activities
- Picture recipe displays and commercial books

- Targeting preparation of core group of foods that require no more than 3 ingredients and 3 main cooking steps
- Teach use of microwave, dishwasher and organization of cabinets and refrigerator

- www.bryback-manor.com
- www.tinsnips.org
- <http://www.angelfire.com/pa5/as/>

7. Teach to use the phone

Helpful Strategies for Teaching Telephone Skills to Young Students with ASD

- Task organizers
- Organizer stories
- www.coultervideo.com
- Commercial aids such as the “Firefly” cell phone for 7 to 12 year olds.



8. Teach to go places independently

Helpful strategies for teaching young students with ASD to go places independently

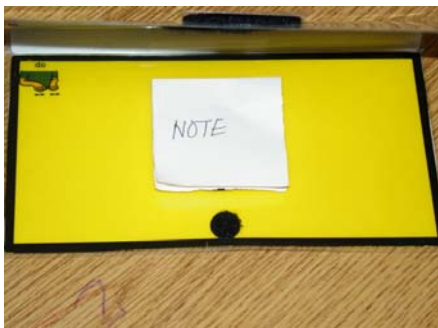
- Locker monitor
- Temporary destinations outside of classroom
 - Check schedule
 - Tell teacher
 - Get item(s)
 - Go to destination
 - Return to classroom

“Go To” Booklet



“Go To” Booklet (inside)





“Go To” Destination Sheet



“Go To” Message Sheet



9. To take certain items along when leaving the house.

Helpful Strategies for teaching young Students with ASD to leave home prepared

- Adapted wallet
- Backpack strategies
 - www.teachersandfamilies.com/open/backpack.html
 - Guidelines for 3 age groups (1st, 2nd and 3rd grades):
 - Unloading
 - Work time
 - Reloading

- Learning to be responsible for own portable communication and/or schedule system

10. Teach about personal safety

Helpful Strategies for Teaching Personal Safety Skills to Young Students with ASD

- Boundaries
- Personal ID information – how and when to give
- Scripts and social stories for personal safety issues

Everyday Stationary Supports

- Teaching tray
- Object organizer board
- Helping hand
- Question cards
- Talk About series
- Go to Booklet
- Flexible adapted book supports
- Environmental labels

Talk About Book Series



Suggestions for Additional Visual Support Systems

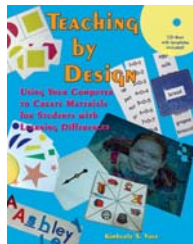
- Visual Support Books for Adults
 - Houses basic supports and tools
 - Can be traditional binder or on-person format such as Super Symbols
- Core Teaching Visuals: Symbol Set Ups
 - Instead of many, many symbols – each set for a different activity - make a group of symbols and use them all the time across many activities
 - Construct a core group of displays for matching, categorizing, organizing, supporting academics, etc.

Resources: A Quick Look at the Best of the Best

- www.mayer-johnson.com
 - Boardmaker free trial period
 - Boardmaker on-line courses
- Boardmaker Digest (Yahoo list serv group)
- Fastenation.com
 - Low profile, removable Velcro
 - Kiss-cut Velcro
- www.hiyah.net
- www.autism4teachers.com
- www.teachers.ocps.net
- www.setbc.org

Resources

- *Teaching by Design*. Kimberly S. Voss.
www.buildingblox.net



www.communicationsymbols.com

(Gus-Overboard)



www.picsearch.com



www.dogpile.com



Sensory Stories
by
Marr and Nackley

- www.theraproducts.com
- Calming strategies and self-regulation for students.
- Social Stories format
- Stressful situations – 30 stories in all
 - Standing in line,
 - Cafeteria
 - School bus ride, etc.
