

Classroom Accommodations for Students with Autism

Environmental/Classroom

- Provide each student with a quiet, distraction-free work area.
- Post visual schedules and classroom expectations in a central area.
- Create a calming or sensory friendly area of the room for breaks.
- Use noise cancelling headphones or other distraction reducing materials.
- Reduce visual and auditory clutter to prevent overstimulation.

Academic

- Use visual organizers, such as checklists or schedules, to help students understand and keep track of tasks or assignments.
- Provide a designated space for keeping materials and supplies organized.
- Encourage the use of technology, such as digital organizers, timers or online calendars, to help with time management and organization.
- Provide visual aids such as help and wait cards to help with communication.

Social

- Ensure preferred method of communication is readily accessible.
- Use Positive reinforcement like verbal praise or rewards to motivate students towards task completion and self-regulation.
- Teachers can provide clear instructions and expectations for assignments and classroom behavior. Clear expectations can reduce anxiety and confusion for students with autism.
- Social skills training can help students with autism improve their communication and social interactions with peers.

Other

- Allow the use of assistive technology, such as speech-to-text or text-to-speech software as needed.
- Use clear and concise language, avoid sarcasm and figurative language.
- Use visual aids such as pictures or gestures to accompany verbal instructions.
- Break instructions into small, simple steps, and repeat them as necessary.