

Understanding Autism Professional Development Curriculum:

Strategies for Classroom Success and Effective Use of Teacher Supports

Secondary school environments can be challenging for students with ASD

- ▶ **Transitions**
 - Require multiple changes
 - Predictable and yet still unpredictable
- ▶ **Sights and sounds of hallways**
 - Noise and commotion can be overwhelming
 - After navigating the hallways, students are often stressed and unsettled
- ▶ **Students with ASD often have difficulty:**
 - Picking out important information from the environment
 - Understanding what they are supposed to do

6

Structure is Key!

- ▶ Make information accessible
 - Spell out where homework goes and where to get materials for the day
- ▶ Provide structure
 - Make task expectations clear
- ▶ Create a predictable classroom



10

Priming

- ▶ What is priming?
 - Priming is exposure to academic course material or tasks before instruction
- ▶ Why should you use this strategy?
 - It gives students the chance to become familiar with the material or skills, and increases the likelihood they will learn and use key concepts
- ▶ Priming is most effective when it is built into the student's daily routine

17

Academic Modifications

- ▶ What are academic modifications?
 - When the content or format of assignments are adapted to meet the student's specific needs
- ▶ Examples:
 - Read directions out loud
 - Extended time on assignments
- ▶ IEP at a glance/cheat sheet can be useful to communicate academic modifications



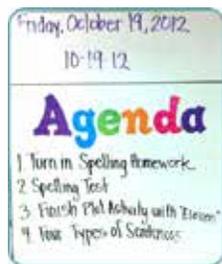
20

Understanding Autism Professional Development Curriculum:

Strategies for Classroom Success and Effective Use of Teacher Supports

Visual Supports

- ▶ **What are visual supports?**
 - Visual supports are any tool presented visually that supports an individual as he or she moves through the day.
- ▶ **Visual supports might include:**
 - Pictures
 - Written words
 - Objects within the environment
 - Visual boundaries
 - Schedules
 - Maps
 - Labels
 - Organization systems
 - Timelines
 - Scripts



23

Reinforcement

- ▶ **What is reinforcement?**
 - Reinforcement rewards students for behaving in ways that are productive and support their continued growth
- ▶ **Examples of reinforcement:**
 - Verbal praise
 - Computer time
 - Homework pass



Remember: A teenager with ASD may need to be reinforced for things that others do not need to be reinforced.

33

Home Base

- ▶ **What is home base?**
 - Home base is a designated place where students with ASD can go to regain control during times of stress



35

Where can you turn?

- ▶ Three primary supports can enhance your efforts when working with students with ASD:
 - The Individualized Education Program (IEP)
 - Special Education teachers
 - Paraprofessionals
- ▶ If you feel your student needs supports...
 - Identify your school's key contact for beginning process of acquiring additional supports

40