



Gunthorpe Primary School

Supporting pupils with Autism - the crucial bits.

Autism is a spectrum condition. Consequently, the impact of autism can vary from person to person. The following tips are not intended to be a 'catch all' or an exhaustive list but can give a good starting point to go about offering support. Remember, these tips are not just good for pupils with autism - they will help everyone!

1. Provide structure - even for free time: develop predictable and consistent routines and break tasks into small steps.
2. Use concrete language: avoid idioms, metaphors and sarcasm. Use simple sentence constructions. For some of your pupils you will need to reduce the amount of language that you use.
3. Provide visual support: signing, symbols, pictures and photographs can be used to support the message that you wish to convey.
4. Visual timelines/schedules: these can take the guess work out of a situation. For some pupils a simple now/next timeline is enough. For others you could provide a whole day's timeline. Task timelines can be used to show the individual steps involved in a multistep task or common classroom routine.
5. Limit distractions: offer the use of a privacy board to limit visual distractions. Give careful consideration to background noises and smells.
6. Define personal spaces: this can be as simple as using masking tape on the desk.
7. The senses: carry out a sensory audit to identify possible issues.

8. Transitions: where possible, provide advance notice of change. Plan carefully for transition and offer several opportunities for the pupil to prepare.

9. Social skills: some people with autism will need explicit teaching to help them to learn to make and maintain friendships.

10. Special interests: make time for your pupils to indulge in their special interests. This could include offering special time as a reward, a calming activity or as a vehicle to teach curriculum content.

