

News Notes

A Newsletter for Teachers of Students with Significant
Cognitive Disabilities
Educational Equity for All



April 2020



This comprehensive collection of ideas and strategies were developed to help guide your student through both educational and developmental milestones. These plans and activities will help your student improve functional communication in both structured and unstructured activities in all areas of the student's life. These materials include books, games, activities, smart charts with references to the Common Core Standards if needed.

Lesson Plans

Lesson Plans give you instant access to a variety of activities that you can do with your student based on specific language objectives. Lesson plans do not have to be fully completed, simply choose activities that your student will enjoy. Smart charts are provided to help both you and your student find vocabulary based on core words. At the end of each lesson, you will find a link to more practice, the next language objective and some even include a homework card. Be sure to 'Like' your favorite lessons to help others choose as well.

Activities

Activities are easy to find, fun games and activities that can be done with a variety of students, no matter what their language level. These activities were developed to engage students and are easily adaptable for different learning objectives. This section is also a great place to come to find activities to do on the fly when you find yourself with a little extra time. You can choose an activity based on a specific objective or choose one from the 'All Levels' section to use with all students.

<https://aaclanguagelab.com/lessons-activities>



Crafts for TEACHERS

Sensory Craft Ideas



<https://www.bakerross.co.uk/craft-ideas/category/sensory-subjects/>



Kids songs, shows, crafts, recipes, activities, resources for teachers & parents and so much more! Take a look around, or sign up for our free newsletter with new things to explore every week!

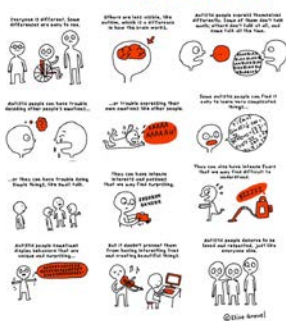
SUPER SIMPLE SONGS Super Simple Songs® is a collection of original kids songs and classic nursery rhymes made SIMPLE for young learners. Combining captivating animation and puppetry with delightful music that kids love to sing along with, Super Simple Songs makes learning simple and fun!



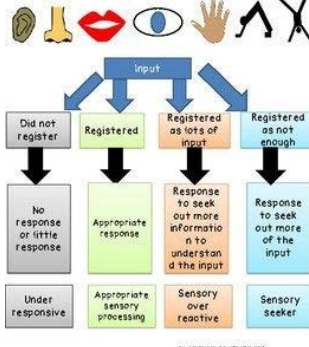
Tana Donaghy, President, Educational Equity For All
Misstanad@educationaequityforall.org; 909-964-5057
<http://www.educationequity4all.com/>

FEATURED IDEA OF THE MONTH

WHAT IS AUTISM?



Sensory Processing



ALTERNATIVE AND AUGMENTATIVE COMMUNICATION



Oh, The Places You Will Go (Virtually)

Stuck at home (for good reason!)? Need to model AAC, or work on science, literacy, or art? Here are some webcams that can be accessed from the comfort of your couch. Many academic and therapeutic goals can be targeted through these virtual windows into other worlds. Some of these webcams may key into your student's special area of interest.

<https://aaccommunity.net/2020/03/oh-the-places-you-will-go-virtually/>

WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

<https://www.teachersfirst.com/>

<https://wayokids.com/scratchgarden>

<https://planningplaytime.com/spring-counting-centers-preschool>



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



The Autism Society offers a free online course: Autism 101. This online course will take approximately 30 minutes to complete. The course covers the following areas:

- Introduction to the Autism Spectrum
- Overview of Treatment Options
- Treatment Assistance
- Transition to Adulthood
- What We Can Do Every Day

At the end of the course you will be able to download a certificate of completion. <https://www.autism-society.org/autism-101-online-course/>



MESS® Early Childhood Curriculum
MESS® stands for: "Marvelous Explorations Through Science and Stories"

Download comprehensive guides designed to help teachers and parents support children's early science explorations and foster language development, literacy, problem solving, curiosity and motivation, and general knowledge through science experiences.

Marvelous Explorations Through Science and Stories: MESS is a science-centered early childhood curriculum enhancement. *MESS* includes 10 month-long units that are appropriate for 3- through 5-year-old children. Each unit includes field-tested science experiences, suggestions for ways to integrate each topic across the curriculum, lists of recommended books and science materials, and ideas for involving families in children's learning at home and in other settings. <https://www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/educators/early-childhood/>



What does it mean to "know the alphabet?"

When we say that children "know the alphabet," we are saying that they have acquired skills and knowledge in four separate areas:

- Knowledge of letter shapes, which requires children to pay attention to key visual features such as the letter's shape, orientation, and directionality.
- Knowledge of letter names, which requires children to understand that letters are symbols, letters have their own names, and each letter name represents both an uppercase letter symbol and a lowercase letter symbol.
- Knowledge of letter sounds, which requires children to understand that letters represent sounds, both individually (e.g., 'S') and in combination (e.g., 'SH').
- The ability to write letters, which requires children to not only have knowledge of letter shapes, but also to have the visual memory and fine motor skills to reproduce letter shape in written form.

How does knowing the alphabet help kids learn the read?

Research suggests that knowing letter names supports the development of reading skills in at least three ways:

1. When children can rapidly name letters, they do not have to spend much cognitive energy identifying letters in text. Instead, they can dedicate more cognitive resources to the other tasks of reading, such as sounding out words and comprehending the text.
2. For most, but not all, of the letters, knowing the name of the letter gives children some information about the sound the letter makes, which facilitates reading.
3. Knowing the names of the letters gives children a common language to discuss letters. This is important because many letters make more than one sound (e.g., 'A' makes both the /ā/ and /ă/ sounds), and many sounds are produced by more than one letter (e.g., the /j/ sound is made by both 'J' and 'G'). Furthermore, letter names provide a connection between uppercase and lowercase letters, as children learn that both 'A' and 'a' represent the same letter. <https://www.giftofcuriosity.com/product/101-ways-to-teach-the-alphabet/>