

General Tips for Working with Students with Autism

1. Reduce verbal instructions and unnecessary verbal language.
2. State expectations clearly and concisely. Use firm rather than flowery language.
3. Supplement verbal with visual instructions/cues. Think "If I see it, then I understand it."
4. **CONSISTENCY!!** Behavior plan, work/reward routines, and verbal instructions should all be consistent across staff.
5. Limit questions when wanting a child to comply. If you ask them "are you ready to work?" then they have the opportunity to say "NO!"
6. Follow through on your instructions. If you ask the student to do something, stick with it!! They will learn that you are not serious about your expectations.
7. Always use motivation and rewards. Pair them with lots of verbal praise.
8. Limit discussions about behavior. State the expectations clearly then follow through with the consequence.
9. Allow time for the student to respond.
10. Avoid sarcastic or abstract language.
11. Provide time warnings before transitions and specific information about significant daily changes (i.e., assembly, fire drill, etc.).
12. Set aside a specific time of the day for the student who always wants to talk about the same thing. This can also be used as a reward.