

Strategies for Students with Autistic Spectrum Disorders to Assit them in Coping with Communication Challenges

- Use the student's name to get his/her attention and wait for a response.
- Make sure you are within the student's range of vision - some students find it difficult to make and maintain eye contact.
- *Give clear instructions*
- *Offering a series of cues can help the student onto the same "wavelength" before you ask a question*
- Most students with autistic spectrum disorders have superior visual abilities - they say they "think in pictures".
- Checklists of regular routines and sequential instructions are often helpful, as are flow charts and mind maps.
- Visual supports can be referred to over and over again whereas oral language is transient - once it is said, it is no longer available.
- Take care with non-verbal communication.
- Some students will be using non-verbal communication systems, such as sign language, picture or symbol communication systems, or other facilitated approaches.
- Whatever system has been agreed, the key to success is consistent implementation across all settings.

Samples of Schedules

Picture Schedule



Photo Schedule

