

Learning Materials That Support Children with **AUTISM**



A practical guide for teachers and parents

Lakeshore®

AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER: A Practical Guide

Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorder

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is an increasingly more common neurological condition that affects brain development. Children on the autism spectrum tend to have more difficulty socializing with others, communicating effectively and responding appropriately to their environment.

Every Child Is Unique

How ASD affects one child is often very different from how it affects another. Children on the autism spectrum possess a wide variety of skills, strengths, interests and needs—and can benefit from an individualized approach to education, training and support.

Simple Ways to Support Development

In addition to educational strategies and targeted therapy, there are simple, everyday steps that parents, teachers and caregivers can take to support children on the autism spectrum.

- Talk to children in advance about the day's scheduled activities to help children know what to expect.
- Create a schedule that includes picture symbols for daily activities, and check off activities as they're completed.

- Give children choices—such as what clothes to wear or which drawing tool to use—to give them a sense of control.
- Encourage children to use appropriate ways to communicate their needs, rather than using behavioral responses.
- Build on children's strengths and use their special interests to motivate learning.

About This Brochure

This brochure provides suggested materials that target the needs of many children on the autism spectrum—enhancing skills in socialization, communication and response to environment. Find our full selection of items that support children on the autism spectrum at **LakeshoreLearning.com/Autism**.



Engineer-A-Coaster

- Kinesthetic activity stimulates tactile learners
- Provides opportunities to develop social skills by having children work cooperatively with a partner to build coasters
- Boosts planning skills as children learn through trial and error



Light-Up Countdown Timer

- Helps children know how much time is left to easily transition between daily activities
- Helps children stay on task until projects are completed



PP182

Lakeshore Sensory Ball Set

- Stimulates tactile learners with textured nubs, bumps and ridges
- Encourages children to self-regulate to meet their sensory needs
- Develops eye/hand coordination and gross motor skills



RE322

Fill It Up! Fine Motor Jars

- Refines grasping strength, pre-writing skills and eye/hand coordination
- Allows children to practice matching and classification without distractions
- Amount of objects can gradually be increased to help children stay on task



HH166

Magnetic Alphabet Maze

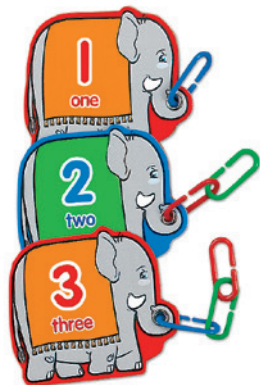
- Builds awareness of cause and effect as children move letters into place
- Exercises children's pencil grip and builds the motor skills needed for writing
- Can be used as a visual aid while singing the alphabet



LL676

Count and Link

- Highly visual way for children to learn numbers and quantities
- Hands-on links allow tactile exploration while fine-tuning motor control
- Allows children to focus on completing a simple task one step at a time



What Should You Do?

A Game of Consequences

- Builds social skills and helps develop a sense of empathy for others
- Shows how to make good choices when situations are out of one's control
- Provides opportunities to interact with peers



Positional Words Resource Box

- Boosts communication skills and helps children learn to follow directions
- Provides a tactile, visual sense of positional words
- Can also be used to act out simple stories with positional words—extending learning



PP949

Tactile Numbers Match-Ups

- Textured surfaces are interesting to touch, helping tactile learners understand numbers
- Touchable images for each number provide a visual and tactile way to count
- Puzzle format boosts eye/hand coordination and fine motor skills



HH396

Moods & Emotions Mirrors

- Helps children understand their own emotions in any situation
- Boosts the ability to recognize emotions in others and develop a sense of empathy
- Improves children's ability to communicate with both peers and adults



AA708

Wikki Stix Alphabet Cards

- Bendable Wikki Stix are stimulating to touch and shape
- Builds letter recognition and matching skills in a highly tactile way
- Helps children stay on task and see projects through from beginning to end



AC214

Magnetic Sight-Word Sentence Board

- Helps visually oriented children recognize commonly used words
- Picture clues help children understand and remember each phrase
- Boosts language skills and helps children effectively communicate



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To learn more about Autism Spectrum
Disorder, visit the Autism Society at
www.autism-society.org

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