

AUTISM NEWSLETTER

10 Critical Components for Success in the Special Education Classroom

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Summarized from Chapter 2

Component #2 - Organization of Materials

- **Rationale**

Knowing what you have, knowing where it is, and having easy access to it creates a more efficient classroom. Instructional time is not wasted looking for what you need for instruction, and students have less downtime, which decreases misbehavior. Your students rely on you to create an environment that is orderly and organized, so they can function independently.

- **Benefits**

- ~ Instructional time is not wasted.
- ~ Visual clarity (lack of clutter) helps the student focus on what is important in the environment.
- ~ Students are able to quickly find what they need for a lesson - reducing confusion and increasing independence.
- ~ Safety is increased when materials are organized and put away.
- ~ Labeling cabinets, shelves, and drawers helps make clear to everyone in the room where materials are located.

- **Key Questions**

- ~ What supplies will you need?
- ~ What stays and what goes?
- ~ Where will the materials be located?
- ~

- **Reflection**

- ~ Students need to learn organizational skills.
 - ~ Are we teaching those skills?
 - ~ Are we modeling those skills?
 - ~ What does my classroom look like?



Executive Functions

Can't Do or Won't Do

Every behavior we engage in is shaped by two things:

- skills and ability to perform the action
- motivation to act or not act on the options available

Can't Do —> **Work or demand is too hard ~ we need to teach new skills**

Won't Do —> **Lack of motivation ~ we need to adjust the reinforcer.**

The Autism Helper

GOALBOOK TOOLKIT

Here is an example of a Present level in Vocational skills for an independent 10th grader.

“Student” independently displays work habits such as (re-evaluating priorities based on new information, maintaining a clean workspace, recording data/notes), using (task note forms, timers, thought partners), for (4 out of 5) opportunities, as measured by (Goalbook-created work habits assessment , employer evaluation checklist, Brigance Transition Skills Inventory) assessment on 10/27/2022

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/atlas-production.goalbookapp.com/resource-10dc2711-29cc-40e5-7b7d-7b4ad3989e64/Work+Habits+Student-Facing+Self-Assessment.pdf>

Upcoming events:

- Initial STAR Training - Nov. 8th - 9th <http://metroecsus.myquickreg.com/register/event/>
- Practical Trauma-Informed Strategies to Reduce Anxiety in Students - Dec.1, 2022 <https://aepconnections.com/webinar-registrations/practical-trauma-informed-strategies-to-reduce-anxiety-in-students-2/>
- Charting the C's - Virtual - Jan. 20 - 21, 2023
- State Autism Conference - April 26 - 28, 2023



Halloween Social Stories

www.andnextcomesl.com/2016/10/halloween-social-stories-for-kids-with-autism.html

- Carving a Pumpkin
- Trick or Treating
- What To Expect on Halloween
- Trick or Treating At School
- And more.....