

AUTISM NEWSLETTER

10 Critical Components for Success in the Special Education Classroom

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Summarized from Chapter 1

Component #1 - Physical Arrangement of the Classroom

- **Rationale**

Your classroom space is valuable real estate. Every square foot needs to be used for activities that support student learning. Defining and clarifying the physical space of the classroom enables students to anticipate the activity that will be held in each area, thereby increasing their participation and improving their behavior. Ask yourself:

- ~ Is this the best use of the space?
- ~ Does the way I am using this space help contribute to the success of my students?

- **Benefits**

- ~ Students learn to respect physical boundaries.
- ~ Students learn to anticipate the specific types of activities that will occur in specific areas of the classroom.
- ~ Students learn which behaviors are acceptable and expected in each area.
- ~ Room arrangement provides predictability, which has a calming effect.
- ~ Materials are readily accessible.

- **10 Minute Rule**

- ~ Can a visitor come into your classroom and answer the following questions?
 - ~ Where are math, reading and other academics taught?
 - ~ Does there appear to be an area for group instruction?
 - ~ Where are individual work areas?
 - ~ Is there an area for special activities such as arts and crafts?

- **Reflection**

- ~ Take a few moments and look around your room.
 - ~ Make a list of areas that are currently clearly well-defined.
 - ~ Make a list of areas you may need to rethink.



Goalbook Toolkit Overview

Review this 20 minute video to recollect the strategies, assessments, resources and webinars available to you on this site.

This Free Resource is again available to all educators in Minnesota. Take advantage of the wealth of information included on this website.

All MN educators are eligible for FREE ACCESS to the **STAR Media Center** and **SOLS for the Classroom** for the 2022-2023 school year!! To request your Media Center and SOLS accounts, go to <https://starautismsupport.com/MN-SOLS-Access>

SOLS for the Classroom is an online, interactive program that includes leveled curriculum, extensive scripted lesson plans, theme-based and routine-centered activities, and more!

The Media Center has videos, Theme Units, Visuals, Routines, etc. All of which are ready to be printed and used.

GOALBOOK TOOLKIT

One Example

A Present Level for Relationships Skills for a fifth grader needing complete assistance.

Student demonstrates relationship skills by (acknowledging, imitating, showing items to) others, using (proximity, eye gaze, vocalizations) with complete assistance, such as (full-physical prompting, direct teacher or caregiver modeling), when amongst preferred, familiar (adults, caregivers, peers), for (9 out of 10) interactions with others, as measured by (student questionnaire, SSIS-SEL) on 9/19/2022. [During what types of activities does the student most often demonstrate relationship skills?]

This present level is measured through using a one-page Relationship Skills Student Questionnaire where students listen to a statement read aloud then colors the face that corresponds to their feelings towards the statement. Developed by Scholastic (2018)

https://s3.amazonaws.com/atlas-production.goalbookapp.com/resource-fd64aab0-8f28-4857-6cbe-e7c70561761a/EMO_K-2-FeelingsFrequency.pdf

Upcoming Trainings

Oct. 4, 2022 STAR Webinar 3:00-4:40 - Register at: [All Events \(myquickreg.com\)](https://myquickreg.com)

Oct. 12, 2022 - Perspective Taking in the Classroom - Free Webinar from Social Thinking.

Oct. 19, 2022 - Autism and the Predictive Mind, Absolute Thinking in a Relative World - Peter Vermeulen AEP Connections

Oct. 20, 2022 Using Goalbook Toolkit for Social and Emotional Learning - 45 min. Registration

<https://sites.google.com/goalbookapp.com/toolkitwebinars/home>