

AUTISM NEWSLETTER

10 Critical Components for Success in the Special Education Classroom

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Summarized from Chapter 4

Component #4 - Visual Strategies

- **Rationale** - Using visual supports and strategies results in quicker acquisition of skills, improved behavior and enhanced communication.
 - ~ Visual supports deliver information in a consistent format and provide information through our sense of sight.
 - ~ When students become upset, their ability to process what they hear is compromised. The visual channels remain intact and even though they may not be able to process what they hear, they continue to process what they see.
- Visual strategies and supports are researched-based approaches that promote the following:
 - ~ Support and enhance communication
 - ~ Help students stay on task with a reminder that is easily understood and accessible
 - ~ Clarify and highlight important information
 - ~ Assist staff in being consistent
 - ~ Increase students' independence
 - ~ Provide visual organization of the environment
 - ~ Show the step-by-step sequence of an activity
 - ~ Illustrate desired replacement behaviors
 - ~ Inform the student how much longer an activity will last
 - ~ Remind the student of the reinforcement for which he or she is working
 - ~ Organize the steps for completing an assignment
 - ~ Indicate the order of the day's activities
- **Reflection:** There are unlimited ways visual supports can be used. Often, their use arises out of necessity and a teacher's need to help a student learn a new skill or improve his or her behavior. Instead of visuals being used as a last resort they should be an integral part of each classroom.



Executive Functioning Skills

The Autism Helper

Possible accommodations for Executive Function Skill - **Response Inhibition**

- * **Rubrics** * **Mini schedules**
- * **Daily schedule** * **First - Then board**
- * **Use of visuals** * **Reduce distractions**
- * **Proximity seating** * **Word banks**
- * **Peer modeling** * **Visual checklists**
- * **Token Economy** * **Social Stories**
- * **Listen to recording of books**
- * **Waiting countdown visual**
- * **Visual timer**

ADAPTIVE GAMING NIGHT AND INFORMATIONAL CLASS

Brought to you by Southeastern Minnesota Center for Independent Living Powered by Ablegamers

All gamers of all capabilities are invited to Rochester's first Adaptive Gaming Night! There will be both traditional and adaptive controller equipment designed to overcome boundaries for individuals with physical disabilities.

Where: 2200 Second St. SW, Rochester, MN 55902 **When:** January 19th from 5:00 – 7:00pm.

Starting at 5:00pm there will be a 30-minute introductory presentation on adaptive gaming followed directly by open gaming including: PC gaming, Nintendo Switch, Oculus VR, and Playstation/Xbox.

- You're welcome to bring any of your own gaming equipment.
- To register or for more information email ilreferral@semcil.org or call 507-285-3917

Upcoming events:

- Charting the C's - Virtual - Jan. 20 - 21, 2023
- Strengthening the Core: The Roles of Mental Process in Social Cognition and Narrative Discourse (Virtual Only) - Jan. 26, 2023 9 AM - 3PM
<https://web.cvent.com/event/237975ef-9f1e-465f-be1b-05b717ca4cc5/summary>
- State Autism Conference - April 26 - 28, 2023

SPED Forms Support - Every Thursday at 3:00

Each week our SPED Forms staff and users tackle a different subject with the goal of sharing ideas and ways to improve your knowledge and experience with our software.

January 5th, 2023

- How to use SpEd Forms 2.0
Link to discussion: meet.google.com/usb-rjts-szn

<https://spedforms.com/support/>