Autism and Communication

Children with ASD may have difficulty developing language skills and understanding what others say to them. They also can often have difficulty communicating nonverbally, such as through hand gestures, eye contact, and facial expressions. There are many options available to help support communication in the classroom ranging from low tech to advanced communication devices. Strategies may include:

- Providing extra wait time for processing
- Picture cues
- Visual Schedules
- Assistive technology/Augmentative Communication Devices

Here at TMCSEA, we often use a program called Lesson Pix to create picture cues and visual schedules. Boardmaker is another commonly utilized program.

There are also many other free options that can be found online such as

http://www.do2learn.com/picturecards/printcards/

AT for Communication Roadmap

Assistive technology can be used to support and enhance communication for people with autism, regardless of speech ability. Augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) is a specific type of assistive technology that can benefit people with autism of all ages by promoting independence, expanding communication, and increasing social interactions.

Use the Assistive Technology for Communication Roadmap and follow the steps to learn how to get started using assistive technology devices for communication. TMCSEA has an Assistive Technology team available to come to your classroom and trial specific devices with students.

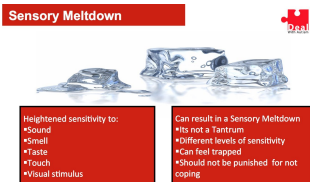Please visit http://www.tmcsea.org/assistive-technology.html for more information.

Upcoming **Free** and **Local** Workshops by TMCSEA.

Please register soon at
http://www.tmcsea.org/inservice.html

★ PECS Level 1 Training - This intensive two-day training is designed to teach participants the theory behind the Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) and the protocols for how to appropriately implement the six phases of PECS.

★ Autism Meltdowns in Children and Adolescents: Practical Strategies for Prevention, Intervention and Postvention - discriminate effective communication strategies from ineffective ones in order to minimize undesirable behaviors

★ Executive Functioning Skills and Strategies - Gain a detailed understanding and foundation of executive function skills to increase competencey and independence.

★ Hidden Curriculum: Practical Solutions for Understanding Rules in Social Situations - The Hidden Curriculum refers to a set of rules or guidelines that are often not directly taught but are assumed to be known. This "Curriculum" includes unspoken rules, slang, metaphors, body language, etc and can often impact social interactions, school or job performance and sometimes health and well-being. This session includes practical tips for teaching these hidden social needs and stresses the importance of making these a part of everyday life.

· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

Useful websites for supporting communication

★ Language Acquisition through Motor Planning (LAMP) Words for Life
https://aacapps.com/
★ Picture Exchange Communication Systemhttps://pecsusa.com/pecs/