

Strategies at Hand was created to provide special and general education teachers and paraeducators with easily accessible tools for working with students on the autism spectrum.

For ease of use, the various types of tools are color coded as follows:

- **Blue** – Learning environments
- **Purple** – Areas of student need
- **Green** – Transitions (planned and unplanned)
- **Orange** – Alphabetical explanations of strategies marked with an “*”
- **Yellow** – Resources and references for further information on a range of topics related to students with autism spectrum disorders

The interventions are presented from least to most restrictive, meaning that the earlier strategies are often simple and easy to provide, whereas later strategies may require more support and knowledge/training. Therefore, we recommend that you move from the top to the bottom of the categories.

Strategies at Hand is meant to be used as a supplement to research-based strategies designed to meet the unique needs of individual students who have autism spectrum disorders. It is not an exhaustive list of strategies and resources but presents a wide range of true-and-trying interventions. We hope you find it helpful in providing the best possible support for your students.

GENERAL EDUCATION CLASS

Communication

- Provide student with picture communication system*
- Use simple sign language for functional skills with the student (e.g., toilet, help, hungry)
- Provide written language/pictures to support communication
- Use assignment book
- Allow wait-time for processing verbal requests
- Use short verbal phrases when making requests (e.g., “Time to work.”)
- Alert student’s attention to key points using such phrases as, “This is important; listen carefully”
- Teach the meaning of idioms and analogies; this is important as students with autism spectrum disorders are literal thinkers

Social

- Use mixed grouping so that beginning, middle and high-level students can learn from each other
- Allow students to work in pairs
- Develop and practice Social Stories™* or social scripts*
- Use pictures with words to present choices
- Integrate team-building exercises

Have student/parent present to others about autism spectrum disorders