

Key areas:

Social Interaction
Social Communication
Social Imagination / Information Processing
Sensory Needs
Emotional understanding and self-awareness
Organisation and independent learning

Who should I follow on Twitter?



There are many people who tweet about SEN and Inclusion on Twitter. Here are a few that I enjoy following:

AutismAwareness.com @autism212

Carol Gray @SocialStories

Leah Kuypers @ZonesOfReg

Nancy @nancygedge

Nasen @nasen_org

National Autistic Society @Autism

SENCO Chat @sencochat

Social Thinking @socialthinking

Tes_SEN@Tes_SEN

The Inclusive Class @Inclusive_Class

Think Inclusive @think_inclusive

UCL Centre for Inclusive Education @senjit_ioe



Follow
@CamTSNet for
more 'subjects
on a page'

Autism in the Primary Classroom 'on a Page'

These are some areas to be aware of when supporting pupils with Autism.

We know that each child is an individual and what works for one may not work for another, but keep in mind what works for autism usually benefits all children.

- Keep to routines that have been agreed as much as possible, but gradually develop flexibility by teaching and modelling how to cope when something different happens
- Prepare for any changes and key information (planned and unplanned)
- Use visual supports to help pupils understand the school day
- Simplify communication and allow time to process information
- Use Social Stories to develop social understanding
- Complete a sensory checklist to ensure the school environment is as comfortable as possible
- Agree a safe space to go when they are feeling overloaded by sensory stimuli and teach sensory strategies
- Deal with any bullying thoroughly and promptly
- Promote whole school autism awareness and acceptance
- Personalise the curriculum to incorporate intense interests to reduce anxiety and allow pupils to shine
- Record behaviours to identify triggers and inform planning/staff training (STAR analysis charts)
- Teach social and emotional resilience (Zones of regulation or The Homunculi Approach) and social skills (time to talk or socially speaking)
- Establish good communication with parents/carers.

What should I read?

The reason I jump: one boy's voice from the silence of autism by Naoki Higashida

Written when he was only thirteen, this remarkable book provides a rare insight into the behavior of autistic children.

Comic Strip Conversations by Carol Gray

By using stick-figures with 'conversation symbols', reinforces that others have independent thoughts – a concept that children with ASD find difficult.

Zones of Regulation by Leah Kuypers

A curriculum geared towards helping pupils gain skills in consciously regulating their actions, which in turn leads to increased control and problem solving abilities.

The Homunculi Approach by Anne Greig and Tommy MacKay

The Homunculi, (or 'little people'), is a fun activity that builds social and emotional resilience in children and young people, aged 7+. It is particularly suited to those who often have difficulty identifying troubling feelings such as anger, fear and anxiety,

You are a Social Detective: Explaining Social Thinking to Kids by Michelle Garcia Winner

An entertaining comic book offering a different way to teach pupils how to develop their social skills.

Sensory strategies: Practical ways to help children and young people with autism learn and achieve by Laurie Corinna

Published by the National Autistic Society it is a photocopiable resource full of ideas.

Resources:

Ambitious about Autism

- www.ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk

Autism Education Trust

- www.autismeducationtrust.org.uk

Carol Gray

- www.carolgraysocialstories.com

Gina Davies (Attention Autism)

- www.ginadavies.co.uk

Social Thinking

- www.socialthinking.com

The National Autistic Society

- www.autism.org.uk

NASEN – SEND Gateway

- www.sendgateway.org.uk/