

Resource Guide

This listing contains many of the author's favorite books and websites. Over time it has been gleaned from the recommendations of colleagues and hours spent exploring the internet and specialty bookstores in search of insightful and practical information. Whether the resource is a book, a software program, free graphics or downloadable lesson plans, the standard for inclusion was the same for all entries: Highly functional, easy to implement strategies and materials for assisting the communication skills of students with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Construction Materials

Laminating Film and Laminators

Desktop laminators are a wonderful resource for most educators. Paper materials can be protected from unexpected spills and other accidents as well as general wear and tear. What to look for when shopping for a desktop laminator? A 12 inch or wider feed will permit laminating of file folders and other menu sized items. Check the manual to be certain that the laminator is able to accommodate film thicknesses up to 7 mil (items laminated with 5 mil – 7 mil film or thicker tend to be more durable). It can also be very helpful to purchase a laminator that does not require the use of special paper carriers. It is usually faster to place the film directly into the laminator versus having to first place the film into a paper carrier before laminating it.

Desktop laminators require the use of folded pouches of laminating film and may or may not require that you place the pouch in a carrier before placing it in the machine (see above). A frequently used size of laminating pouch is letter size in 5 mil or 7 mil. Most vendors carry sizes that range from credit card size to map size and may offer film up to a 15 mil thickness. Although a glossy finish is

typically preferred, matte finish film is also available for use with students who have difficulty visually tolerating shiny surfaces on learning materials.

Internet sites for laminators and laminating film are numerous. The following are suggested as places to begin looking:

www.icontalk.com

www.gbc.com

www.usi.com

Velcro

www.fastenation.com offers excellent prices on “Texacro” an off shore brand of hook and loop fasteners. The cost is often less than half the usual retail prices for other brands. When searching out the sizes, colors and types of Texacro offered, you will need to select the “flyer” at the website and download the entire pdf catalog.

The author suggests that you place the hook or rough side of the Velcro or Texacro on the backside of moveable items such as picture cards. The soft or loop side of the hood and loop fastener is then placed on the mounting surface such as a page or file folder. Buy using this system (i.e. “Hard on the card”) picture symbols can easily be attached to alternate surfaces such as flannel boards and other Velcro friendly surfaces.

Scissors

Be kind to your hands! Both laminating film and Velcro tend to be somewhat resistant surfaces to cutting. One brand of scissors particularly well suited to cutting both laminated items and hook and loop fasteners is Fiskars 8 inch shears (look for the orange handles). The large handles offer extra space for your thumb and fingers but still afford good control when cutting.

How to remove the adhesive residue from sticky back Velcro or Texacro from your scissors? Begin by spraying your scissors with Pam or, in a pinch, by wiping the blades with mayonnaise or hand lotion (leaving only a very thin film of either substance on your scissors). If sticky spots begin to develop, the following three options can be helpful:

- 1. As soon as you have finished cutting, wash your scissors in hot, soapy water, rinse and dry thoroughly (to avoid rust).**
- 2. Use rubbing alcohol or alcohol swabs to wipe away the sticky residue.**
- 3. Commercial products such as “Goo Gone” are very helpful in removing even long standing or especially stubborn areas of adhesive build up.**

Tempo and Other Velcro Receptive fabrics

www.lockfast.com offers excellent prices on seconds of Tempo, a fabric similar to the headliners used in cars and Trucks. It readily grabs the hooks of Velcro, Texacro, etc. and provides an excellent display surface when attached to items such as bulletin boards, the outside of binders, laminated pages, etc. Lockfast offers a tightly constructed grade of Tempo in over 2 dozen colors. You can also purchase headliner fabric at stores such as JoAnne’s Fabrics, etc.

Library Pockets

Laminated and slit open again with the tip of a scissors blade, library pockets make an excellent “finished” container for embedded schedules, file folder activities, etc. Packages of 50 library pockets can currently be purchased for \$4.64 from www.edushop.edu4kids.com

Graphics Available On-line at Major Search Engines

The 'Image' sections of popular search engines can be very helpful when attempting to locate graphics for visual supports. Many search engines catalog large numbers of images such as photographs and clip art. Images are easy to access by using the following steps:

1. On the opening page of a search engine such as *Google* or *Yahoo*, click on "Images". Type in the name of the graphic for which you are searching, e.g. "car" and click on search.
2. A series of thumbnail images will appear on your screen. (Often there are window after window of images associated with the target word or phrase).
3. When you have found an image you would like to capture, you can do so by clicking on the thumbnail image to reach a larger view.
4. Right click on the larger view, select a print or copy command and, if copied, paste the resulting image into an open program such as Boardmaker, a Word document, a paint document, etc.
5. Be aware of any copyright restrictions. Know that Fair Use Guidelines for copyrighted images typically state the following: If copyrighted, you may NOT use the image for commercial purposes. For instructional purposes it is general practice that you may use a copy of the image short term. For long term use or if you need many copies, it is recommended that you contact the copyright holder.
6. Search engines which contain many usable images include:
 - a. Google.com
 - b. Yahoo.com
 - c. Altavisata.com
 - d. Dogpile.com
 - e. Picsearch.com
 - f. Ditto.com

Internet Book Vendors that Carry Titles Relating to Autism Spectrum Disorders

1. **www.asperger.net** While at the website, be sure to look for their quarterly journal. It is downloadable in pdf file and often contains very helpful articles written by professionals and family members.
2. **www.autismbookstore.com** The largest non-profit ASD bookstore in the United States. Offering hundreds of titles, this bookstore is sponsored by the North Carolina Autism Society.
3. **www.futurehorizons-autism.com** Another large vendor of autism specific titles and sponsor of autism related conferences.
4. **www.amazon.com** and **www.barnesandnoble.com** both offer many publications dealing with autism.
5. **www.half.com** Associated with eBay, this website has a textbook section that contains books on Autism Spectrum Disorders. The price reductions can sometimes be quite impressive.

Websites that offer graphics, downloadable materials and teaching suggestions

www.abcteach.com

A for fee website that none-the-less has many FREE samples such as clip art, printable books and coloring pages.

www.autisminspiration.com

This website is a collaborative effort by a husband and wife who have children with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Mom is also a special education teacher. You are required to subscribe to the website, but there is no fee. There are many, many downloadable graphics displays as well as teaching suggestions. Information categories include behavior management, sensory ideas, visual supports, social skills, reading, math, writing, etc.

www.boardmaker.com

The home website for “Boardmaker”, a very popular and easy to use software program featuring several thousand icons or picture symbols. The site also features other software for generating digital images and/or clipart as well as a wide selection of workbooks and teaching materials.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/boardmaker>

A “Boardmaker Digest”, this website shares Boardmaker ideas and displays designed by educators and family members. There are many, many displays that can be downloaded and used immediately (see Files section). The moderators for the site seem to do an excellent job of keeping the standards for the site high and also offering some very helpful technical information relative to Boardmaker use. There is no cost for subscribing to the Boardmaker Digest. One note of caution – files are purged periodically (once a month or so). My advice is to check the site frequently and download any files that you would like right away.

www.bry-backmanor.org

A website often recommended to teachers by teachers because it contains a large number of downloadable picture symbol recipes for popular snacks and other easy to prepare foods. Simply download, print, three-hole punch and store in a binder. There are approximately 40 picture recipes and over 200 activity sheets as well as other teaching materials and activities.

www.buildingblox.net

Contains free downloads as well as an excellent selection of items for purchase. This website contains one of my favorite activity books of all time – *Task Bonanza* – filled with teaching ideas, beautifully photographed and accompanied by clear explanations of the activity objective(s) as well as how to construct, use and extend the activity. Check the “Task Ideas” section for teacher shared ideas (in photograph form).

www.cindysautisticsupport.com A classroom website from the Pittsburgh Public Schools. Contains helpful examples of a variety of schedules, free downloads and links to other educational/communication resources.

www.communicationsymbols.com

Home of “Overboard” a recently developed library of picture symbols. Like Boardmaker, Overboard contains several thousand symbols. Both programs enable users to create unique displays; there is no need to purchase additional draw or paint software. At present, the cost of Overboard is especially reasonable and the seller offers a two week trial period.

www.do2learn.com

The Special Educator’s Website!!! A wealth of teaching suggestions and downloadable materials for special educators – particularly those working with students with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Most of the information is free including a few hundred black and white picture symbols. There is a subscription fee, however, for interactive software activities for students and for a more expanded set of colored picture communication symbols. The site has recently added an impressive section that focuses on the topic of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome.

www.enchantedlearning.com

This is THE website for accessing thematic information of all types – worksheets, printable books, coloring pages, activity suggestions, etc. The subscription fee of \$20.00 is an excellent bargain for the wealth of information that can be accessed, but know that there is quite a bit of free information available at the website as well.

www.kidaccess.com

A helpful resource to know about, this website offers specialty icons for such topics as therapeutic riding, music therapy, police and emergency, dental and medical visits, etc. The families of your students may also appreciate that this website

accommodates requests for picture communication symbols already laminated and backed with Velcro, sticker adhesive or magnet strips.

www.kidsdomain.com

Filled with general parenting information, this site also has activity suggestions just for children – craft ideas and patterns, word puzzles, coloring pages, stories, printables etc. It is listed in the present guide, however, because of its excellent selection of free clipart and its links to other clip art websites.

www.lindaslearninglinks.com

A website filled with early learning suggestions in the areas of literacy and math – many of which can be used as a springboard for planning communication skill based lessons. Particularly impressive are the sections on thematic ideas and lesson plans.

www.members.aol.com/room5 This website is also known as Chris' Room 5. Chris, a special education teacher in North Carolina, uses text and photographs to invite you into her classroom for students with Autism Spectrum Disorders. She shares information with you regarding classroom engineering, structured teaching tasks, visual schedules, and other day to day classroom issues. There are also numerous links to articles and websites which explore the learning challenges involved in Autism Spectrum Disorders.

www.preschoolfun.com

The website for California Avenue School in Vista, California, which also serves as a TEACCH training site. There are dozens and dozens of photographed structured teaching activities under the category, “TEACCH Work Jobs”. These tasks cover a range of subject areas as well as age levels and were developed by TEACCH trainers. They will stimulate your creativity and remind you of good engineering practices as you construct communication based activities for students with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

www.preschoolprintables.com

Although this website carries for purchase items - their CD's are loaded with wonderful printable teaching materials for young children – there are none-the-less many wonderful FREE samples of materials available for downloading. Choose from file folder activities, flannel board stories, calendars, bingo cards and memory games, lesson plans, etc. Two sister sites, www.preschoolcoloringbook.com and www.preschooleducation.com also offer free materials and teaching suggestions.

www.sandbox-learning.com

For fee website dedicated to the construction of personalized social stories for students. Social stories are leased on an annual basis for a small fee. Check out the free sample, a social story about *waiting*, and try the sample pages for listed stories.

www.seeitsayitwriteit.com

Offers many task organizers containing both clip art and photographs. Graphic organizers are also downloadable to extend the teaching experience for each recipe or task.

www.senteacher.org

A website based in the UK. There are wonderful printables and downloads designed specifically for students with special learning needs.

www.setbc.org

A Canadian based website that is a rich resource for both graphics and intervention planning for students with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Click on Learning Center at the top of the home window and then check both the “Communication” and “General Topics” sections. You will find webcasts, narrated demonstrations, printed resources, assistive technology guidelines and downloadable visual supports for both receptive and expressive communication.

www.shoebotasks.com

Also known as *Centering on Learning* this is the website of Ron Larsen, the originator of “Shoebotasks”. Although first introduced by Ron, this term has become a commonplace label for structured teaching activities that are engineered on and in shoebox containers to provide clarity and a stable work surface for more limited functioning students with autism. Students of higher ability levels who have significant difficulty with organizing skills and motor planning may also find the structure of shoebox tasks helpful, e.g. answer cards for multiplication problems (as well as the printed problems) are anchored in slotted openings on the lid of a shoebox. The student places each problem-answer pair together in a slot and is afforded a means of demonstrating his mathematical proficiency without being penalized by his poor handwriting and number formation skills.

www.speakingofspeech.com

THE speech pathologist’s website!! Also an excellent resource, however, for other classroom and clinical staff. There is a treasure trove of information covering a wide range of communication disorders particularly Autism Spectrum Disorders. There are also downloadable picture communication displays such as a storyboard to support reading comprehension skills.

www.symbolworld.org

Offers free downloads that have been adapted with picture communication symbols including stories and learning activities. To access a wonderful e-live magazine for older students (completely adapted with picture symbols) the user must subscribe. It is well worth doing since the subscription is free and many back issues of the magazine are available, along with the current issue, in pdf form for downloading.

www.tasksgalore.com

This website offers excellent books containing structured teaching ideas for students with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Each book features photographed teaching activities which the

reader can replicate or use as a springboard for creating his or her own unique activity designs. Currently there is an idea book focusing on younger students, one that targets the needs of older students and – my favorite –one that has suggestions for shared activities: *Making Groups Meaningful*. Don't forget to check out the section, "Task of the Month" as well as "Shared Ideas" for additional activity suggestions. Well done!!

www.teacch.com

In addition to listing scheduled TEACCH trainings and providing basic information regarding the TEACCH network of services, this website offers some excellent articles by TEACCH personnel. At the website click on "Information on Autism" and review the articles under "Educational Approaches" and "Communication Approaches". One article, in particular, by Kerry Hogan (Communication Aspects from a Developmental Perspective) provides very helpful advice on visual thinking, communication, imitation and play skills – a wonderful read for both veteran and beginning therapists working with young students with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

www.tinsnips.org

Many downloads including ready to use task organizers, conversation boards, behavioral scripts, schedule and choice symbols as well as descriptions of teaching strategies. You'll also find my favorite recipe for playdoh!!

www.trainland.tripod.com

This website contains a vast number of links to a wide range of information regarding Autism Spectrum Disorders. Also at the website you will find many pages of graphics – some are photographs with entries from many vocabulary categories; others are clipart pictures from commercial programs.

www.usevisualstrategies.com

This website belongs to Linda Hodgdon, an accomplished author and conference presenter regarding the use of visual supports for students with Autism Spectrum Disorders. At her website you will find a listing of her books as well as a growing

collection of picture communication symbols and ready to download visual displays.

Videos

www.modelmekids.com

Social skills videos for students with Autism Spectrum Disorders/Asperger's Syndrome. There are accompanying photos and texts for instructional follow-up. For example, the photos included as a followup to a greeting segment are "Turn you body", "Look" and "Say hello". Video topics include *Time for School, Time for a Playdate, I Can Do It, and Conversation Cues*. The last video targets upper elementary through high school. Current cost of each video is \$29.00.

www.coultervideo.com

This website markets exceptionally well done videos on topics relating to Asperger's Syndrome. The author's personal favorite is "Manners for the Real World: Basic social Skills". There are also numerous free articles at the website that focus on the challenges associated with Asperger's Syndrome.

Character Specific Websites

www.berenstainbears.com Much free information including character graphics and descriptions, interactive storybooks, calendar, board game and a wonderful set of Berenstain Bear paper dolls with 8 wardrobe pages. The paper dolls can easily be combined with communication symbols to create communication based activities (e.g. communication symbol strips tell the student which outfit to put on Papa Bear, etc.). Communication/literacy based activities using paper dolls and pictures symbol combinations have been some of the favorite activities of my younger students.

www.dltk-kids.com

A website rich with graphics, craft projects, downloadable books, greeting cards, etc. Many popular childhood characters can be found at this website: Disney, Pokeman, Sponge Bob, Dora, etc. along with characters from popular childhood books such as the Eric Carle series.

www.pbskids.org

A large group of children's characters are featured at this website. Many are old favorites such as Sesame Street characters, Barney, Arthur, Curious George, etc. There are downloadable items for each character along with activity suggestions for parents and lesson plans for teachers. An excellent resource overall.

Books

Addressing the Challenging Behavior of Children with High-Functioning Autism/spgerger Syndrome in the Classroom by Rebecca A. Moyes

Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2002

ISBN: 1-84310-719-8

Asperger Syndrome and Adolescence: Practical Solutions for School Success by Brenda Smith Myles and Diane Adreon.

Autism Asperger Publishing Company, 2001

ISBN: 0-9672514-9-4

Asperger Syndrome and Difficult Moments: Practical Solutions for Tantrums, Rage and Meltdowns by Brenda Smith Myles and Jack Southwick

Autism Asperger Publishing Company, 2005

ISBN:1-931282-70-6

**Asperger Syndrome and the Elementary School Experience: Practical Solutions for Academic and Social Difficulties by Susan Thompson Moore
Autism Asperger Publishing Company, 2002
ISBN: 1-931282-13-7**

**Asperger Syndrome and Young Children: Building Skills for the Real World by Teresa Bolick
Fair Winds Press, 2004
ISBN: 1-59233-062-2**

**Do-Watch-Listen-Say: Social Communication Intervention for Children with Autism by Kathleen Ann Quill
Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co., 2000
ISBN: 1-55766-453-6**

**The Hidden Curriculum: Practical Solutions for Understanding Unstated Rules in Social Situations by Brenda Smith Myles, Melissa L. Trautman and Ronda L. Schelvan
Autism Asperger Publishing Company, 2004
ISBN: 1-931282-60-9**

**Higher Functioning Adolescents and Young Adults with Autism: A Teacher's Guide by Ann Fullerton, Joyce Stratton, Phyllis Coyne and Carol Gray.
Pro-Ed, Inc., 1996 ISBN: 0-89079-681-5**

**How Do I Teach This Kid?: Visual Work Tasks for Beginning Learners on the Autism Spectrum by Kimberly A. Henry
Future Horizons, 2005 ISBN: 1-932565-24-8**

**The Incredible Five Point Scale: Assisting Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders in Understanding Social Interactions and Controlling Their Emotional Responses by Kari Dunn Buron and Mitzi Curtis.
Autism Asperger Publishing Company, 2003
ISBN: 1-931282-52-8**

**I Need Help with School: A Guide for Parents of Children with Autism and Asperger's Syndrome by Rebecca A. Moyes.
Future Horizons: 2003 ISBN: 1-885477-98-8.**

**Life Skills Activities for Secondary Students with Special Needs (Including 190 ready to use lessons with reproducible worksheets to help children develop the basic skills necessary to experience independence in everyday living.) by Darlene Mannix
John Wiley and Sons, 1995
ISBN: 0-7879-6620-7**

**Meaningful Exchanges for People with Autism: An Introduction to Augmentative and Alternative Communication by Joanne M. Cafiero
Woodbine House, 2005
ISBN: 978-1-890627-44-7**

**Power Cards: Using Special Interests to Motivate Children and Youth with Asperger Syndrome and Autism by Elisa Gagnon
Autism Asperger Publishing Company, 2001
ISBN: 1-931282-01-3**

**Social Skills Groups for children with Asperger's Syndrome: A Step by Step Program by Kim Kiker Painter
Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2006
ISBN: 1-84310-821-6**

**Social Skills Training: For Children and Adolescents with Asperger Syndrome and Social-Communication Problems.
Autism Asperger Publishing Company, 2003
ISBN: 1-931282-20-X**

**Specialist Support Approaches to Autism Spectrum Disorder Students in Mainstream Settings by Sally Hewitt.
Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2005
ISBN: 1-84310-290-0**

**Teaching by Design: Using your Computer to Create Materials for Students with Learning Differences by Kimberly S. Voss
Woodbine House, 2005. ISBN: 13-978-1-890627-43-0**

**Understanding and Working with the Spectrum of Autism: An Insider's View by Wendy Lawson.
Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2001 ISBN: 1-85302-971-8**

**Understanding Asperger Syndrome and High Functioning Autism by Gary B. Mesibov, Victoria Shea and Lynn W. Adams
Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers, 2001
ISBN: 0-306-46627-9**

**Understanding the Nature of Autism: A Guide to Autism Spectrum Disorders by Janice E. Janzen
Therapy Skill Builders, 2003
ISBN: 076164126-2**

**What Does It Mean To Me? by Catherine Faherty.
Future Horizons, 2000
ISBN: 1-885477-59-7**