

Goals

At this time of year it will be becoming clearer what goals you want to achieve. Before you set any goals for children with an ASD (no matter what age) it is very important to consider the following:

- What are they doing NOW?
- What is the GOAL?
- What STRATEGIES need to be in place to SUPPORT change?

Those of you who have attended my sessions in the past, will recall that it is very important you have a range of strategies to help you achieve your goals as **'not every strategy works for every child and strategies wear out'**.

Below I have listed some very brief examples to get you started:

Example 1

NOW: At preschool Sarah runs away when it is time to go inside.

GOAL: For Sarah to move inside when asked.

STRATEGIES: Sarah loves a Dora Puzzle, so we are going to use this as a motivator to go inside. Key strategies will be to have the puzzle out at table ready for her, move her inside before everyone else, introduce a photo of "Dora Puzzle".

Example 2

NOW: Stephen spends 10 minutes getting ready to start work activities – ruling up the page, finding a sharp pencil, opening his book, etc.

GOAL: For Stephen to start a work activity and not get stuck on organisation.

STRATEGIES: Pencil already sharpened, page already ruled up, book open to page ready to start work, etc.

Example 3

NOW: In journal writing on Monday mornings Jack can't decide what to write about.

GOAL: For Jack to complete recount activities for journal writing.

STRATEGIES: Jack's family to take photos of an activity on weekend and select topic ready for send in to prompt journal writing.



11 Top Tips to Encourage Independence

1. Give them space and time to have a go.
2. Do not constantly correct them, allow them to make mistakes.
3. Gradually remove prompts.
4. Accept that some days they will need more help, than other days.
5. Create consistent rules between home and school. Such as carrying their own school bag.
6. Many students can become overly reliant on teacher assistant so **DON'T** shadow.
7. Get the students to identify areas of difficulty for themselves.
8. Build up independence slowly.
9. Build self esteem.
10. Have strategies in place for help.
11. REWARD having a go!

Excerpt from *Teacher Assistants Big Blue Book of Ideas* (page 14).



12 New Top Tips to Keeping on Task

Ideas to Try: Use these 12 tips to support completion of tasks in the set time.

1. Take time to observe the student and environment to identify the barriers to completing tasks.
2. Adapt tasks before the activity.
3. Encourage Responses (whether right or wrong, do not constantly correct).
4. Plan to have text books out, and examples to show them.
5. Organisation. For example: have pencil sharp and ready, page ruled up, book opened to correct page etc.
6. Give a preventative break during the task.
7. Limit choices.
8. Create a quiet area for them to work (collaborative tables have limitations).
9. Highlight the easy parts first, so they don't get stuck on "difficult parts" etc.
10. Review environmental factors.
11. Reduce frustration.
12. Ensure clear instructions.

Excerpt from *Teacher Assistants Big Blue Book of Ideas* (page 34).

Great new resource full of practical ideas

Teacher Assistants Big Blue Book of Ideas: By Sue Larkey and Anna Tulleman

Companion to the Teacher Assistants Big Red Book of Ideas. Hundreds of new strategies to try. Social skills: playgrounds, friendships, building self esteem, bullying. In the classroom: getting on task, adapting tasks and exams, building independence. Managing anxiety and behaviour.

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