

SUE LARKEY TIP SHEET

(www.suelarkey.com.au)

9 Key Strategies to Promote Understanding in the Classroom

1. You must first have permission from parents to discuss the child's ASD in the classroom.
2. Conduct the 'My Life in a Box' activity. This is a fantastic activity for the whole school. 'My Life in a Box' is where for News each child brings in a box with objects that tell us about themselves e.g. favourite book, places they have been on holidays, favourite food, favourite colour, sport, pets, etc. If the child has ASD or has a sibling with ASD they can include a book about ASD to read to the class. It is VERY important they talk about all the other interests they have first and then say "I have Autism/Aspergers", or "My brother, sister, cousin, etc has Autism/Aspergers." Encourage ALL students to bring in epi-pens, asthma puffers, cultural objects or family traditions so everyone has something 'different'.
3. Explain ASD at the right level for the class. (I highly recommend *All Cats Have Aspergers* – early years to secondary love this book).
4. Give real life explanations about the sensory issues that students experience such as touch, movement, smell, etc. "*When Johnny walks out the door at lunchtime he finds it hard when people touch him as he moves. When he is bumped into accidentally he may push you away.*"
5. Read stories to the class and explain the issues discussed in the book and relate them to what the students see in the student with ASD. (I highly recommend *Can I Tell You About.... Aspergers / Autism / ADHD* – a great series of books).
6. Explain how and why the child may play differently to other children. Give children strategies to encourage someone with ASD to play with them.
7. Explain how children with ASD *need* sensory tools in the classroom.
8. Explain *how* to be a friend to someone with ASD.

"My son (8yrs at the time) wrote a book titled 'My Asperger's'. He read it to the class. The school library published it, and it is still on the shelf today. An amazing and supportive school community." Charmaine

For more information download my free Tip Sheet 'Promote Understanding in the Classroom' from www.suelarkey.com.au.