

#### LVS Hassocks & LVS Oxford

# The **Neurodiversity** Lecture Series





## **Teaching and Learning Strategies**

# "If you've met one individual with autism... you've met one individual with autism."

Stephen Shore





### What is autism?

Autism is a lifelong developmental disability which affects how people communicate and interact with the world. More than one in 100 people are on the autism spectrum and there are around 700,000 autistic adults and children in the UK.

Autism is a spectrum condition and affects people in different ways. Like all people, autistic people have their own strengths and weaknesses.





## **Memory and Autism**

Research has shown that Autistic people have difficulties with memory. In particular:

- Difficulties with unsupported retrieval, e.g. 'what did you do at school today?' or 'what did you do last lesson?'
- Difficulties with recalling the order of events
- Difficulties recollecting the personally –experienced last and envisaging the possible personally experienced future.





## **Memory and Autism**

#### **Themes and strategies:**

- 1. Don't automatically assume that because something is 'obvious' to you that it is similarly obvious to an autistic person
- 2. Meaning is not always the first thing an autistic person sees in a situation.
- 3. Time and order of events is not as salient
- 4. Organising behaviour in time and remembering to do things in the future
- 5. Certain sensory aspects of the environment can hinder learning and memory.





# Is your classroom Autism friendly?

Are students aware of what time it is? Do they know what lesson it is?

Do they know what the purpose of the lesson is and the expectations of how much listening, class teaching, individual and group work there is?

Are visuals used to: show expectations, give instructions, problem solve, understand vocabulary, problem solve and support transitions?

Is teaching supported with visuals?

Are students given opportunities to meet their sensory needs during the lesson?





## Starting your lessons...

## It is helpful to orient your students each lessons by answering the following questions:

What lesson are we in and how long will the lesson last?

What did we do last lesson?

What activities are we doing?

How can I get help?

How long am I doing it for and what will happen at the end?





# **Choosing the right language...**

**Declarative language** is a technique that lowers demand and increases independent and thinking skills. It requires no response. It makes the communication partners more equal. It includes language that:

Shares own feelings and experiences

Comments or describes

Praises

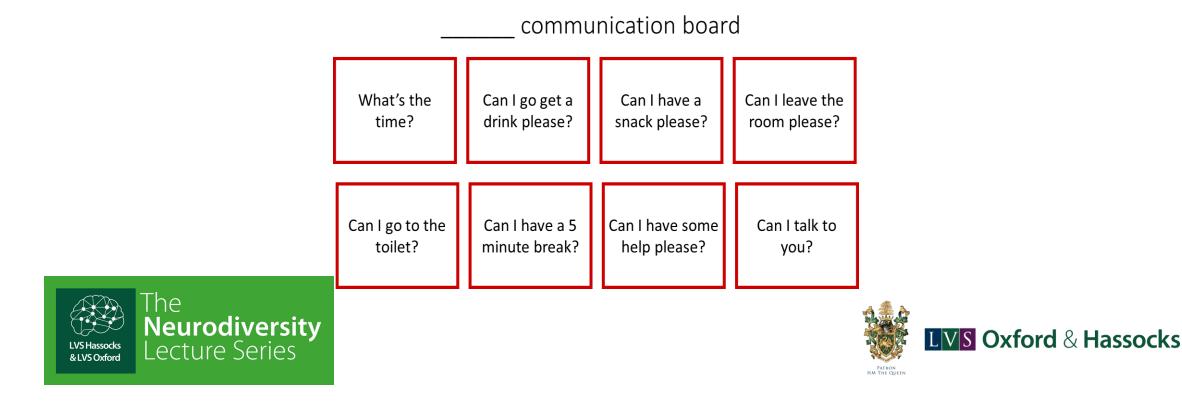
Thinks-aloud and uses problem solving statements.





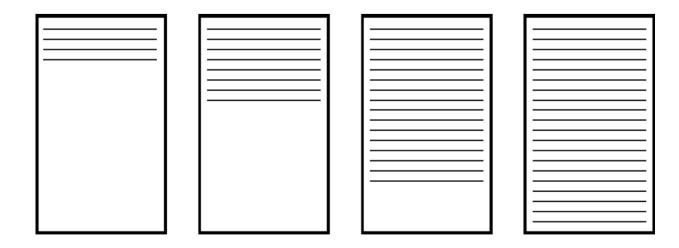
# Using visuals

Visuals can help students to advocate for themselves. Often students can benefit from a communication board so they can point or put a counter on the thing they want to say, without actually having to say it.



## **Task Sheets**

#### I need to write this much in this lesson.







## Change ahead...

Change Ahead Card
will be changed on
because
This will happen instead:

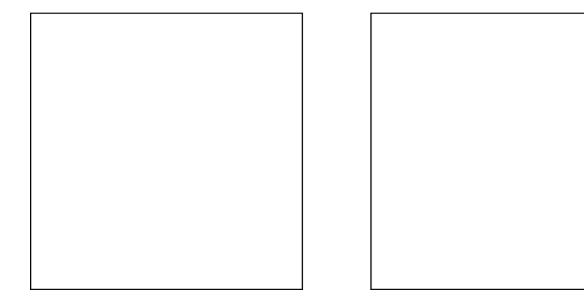




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## **Now and Next**

# Now Next







## Meeting sensory needs...

#### **Fidget tools**

Fidgets, like squeeze balls and key chains, are self-regulation tools that promote movement and tactile input. They can be very good for students who struggle with attention, focus and sensory processing.

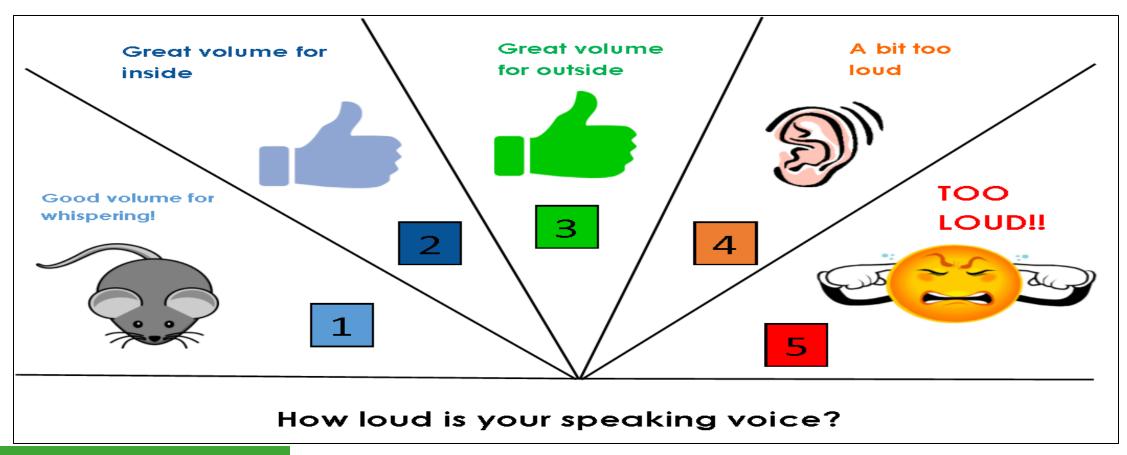








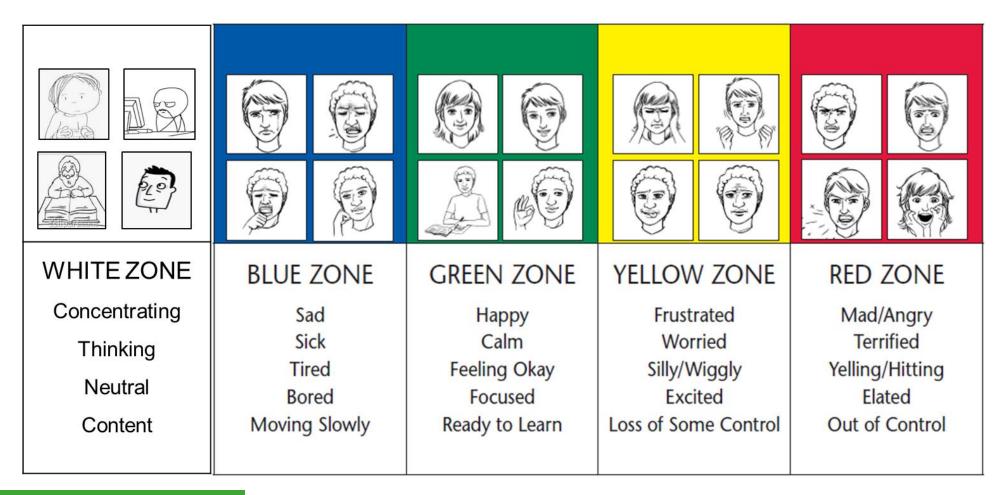
## **Noise Level Control**







### **Zones of Regulation**







## Thank you





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