



## INSTRUCTIONAL TIPS FOR LEARNERS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER (ASD)



**Autism, or autism spectrum disorder (ASD)**, is a neurodevelopmental disorder that affects communication, social interaction, and behavior. It is a spectrum disorder, which means that the severity and presentation of symptoms can vary widely from person to person.

Some common symptoms of autism may include:

- **Difficulty with social communication:** People with autism may have difficulty understanding and using verbal and nonverbal communication, such as facial expressions, tone of voice, and gestures. They may struggle to initiate or maintain conversations and may not pick up on social cues or understand sarcasm and irony.
- **Restricted interests and repetitive behaviors:** People with autism may have intense interests in specific topics or activities and may engage in repetitive behaviors, such as hand-flapping, rocking, or lining up objects.
- **Sensory sensitivities:** People with autism may have unusual responses to sensory input, such as being hypersensitive to certain sounds or textures, or having a high tolerance for pain.
- **Difficulty with change and transitions:** People with autism may struggle with changes in routine or unexpected events and may become upset or anxious in new situations.

It is important to note that these are just some of the possible symptoms of autism, and not everyone with autism will experience all of these symptoms or exhibit them in the same way. Additionally, the severity of symptoms can vary widely, even among people who are diagnosed with the same type of Autism.



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Some beneficial instructional tips and strategies for learners with Autism include:

1. **Create a structured routine:** Students with autism thrive on routine and predictability. Create a structured daily routine and stick to it as much as possible.
2. **Use visual aids:** Visual aids such as pictures, diagrams, and videos can help students with autism understand and remember concepts better than verbal instructions alone.
3. **Break down tasks into smaller steps:** Students with autism may struggle with multi-step tasks. Breaking down tasks into smaller, manageable steps can make them feel less overwhelming.
4. **Use positive reinforcement:** Positive reinforcement, such as praise, rewards, and tokens, can motivate students with autism and encourage positive behavior.
5. **Allow for sensory breaks:** Sensory overload is a common issue for students with autism. Allow for sensory breaks, such as movement breaks or sensory activities, to help students regulate their senses.
6. **Provide clear expectations:** Students with autism may struggle with understanding social cues and expectations. Providing clear, concise instructions and expectations can help them feel more comfortable in the classroom.
7. **Use technology:** Technology, such as educational apps and interactive games, can be engaging and effective tools for teaching students with autism.
8. **Foster a supportive environment:** Creating a supportive, accepting classroom environment can help students with autism feel safe and valued. Encourage peer interaction and provide opportunities for students to practice social skills in a safe setting.