OPENING DOORS FOR EMPLOYMENT

Observation on Promoting Success for Individuals on the Autism Samuel

An Inside liew varas Success

From Challeng the engths

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Preparing for Employment Success

INITIAL PREPARATION FOR EMPLOYMENT

Possible "Jobs" Around the House



FURTHER PREPARATION FOR EMPLOYMENT

Repetitive, Do Whether You Want to or Not, Customer Service









S P E C I A L I N T E R E S T S

An interest of such great intensity that it interferes with daily functioning¹.

SOME SPECIAL INTERESTS²

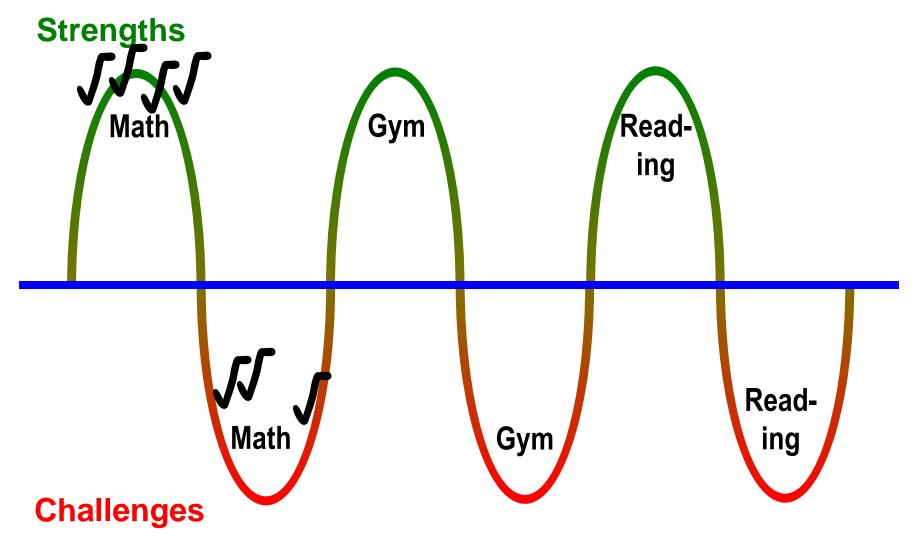
airplanes	astronomy	bicycles	earthquakes
medicine	chemistry	mechanics	electricity
electronics	computers	hardware	tools
psychology	music	rocks	geology
geography	locks	cats	dinosaurs
watches	shiatsu	yoga	autism

- 1. Attwood, A. (1998). Aspergers Syndrome. London: Jessica Kingsley Publishers.
- 2. Shore, S. (2001). Beyond the wall: Personal experiences with autism and Asperger Syndrome. Shawnee Mission, KS: Autism Asperger Publishing Company.

USING YOUR STRENGTHS AT SCHOOL

FINDING YOUR OWN PREFERENCES

Likes & Dislikes



FINDING YOUR OWN COGNITIVE PREFERENCES

Likes & Dislikes

What types of topics, subjects in school, or tasks at work do you
LIKE and find easy and
enjoyable to do?

What types of topics, subjects in school, or tasks at work do you DISLIKE find difficult to do?

FINDING YOUR OWN SOCIO-EMOTIONAL PREFERENCES

Likes & Dislikes

What social and leisure activities do you like and find easy to do?	What social and leisure activities do you dislike and find harder to do?
	<u></u>

MOVING BEYOND PREFERENCES: The Importance of:

Interests



Strengths

People are usually INTERESTED in things they are GOOD at.

What types of things, subjects in school, or tasks do you find INTERESTING?	Which of these things are you also GOOD at?

The Importance of:

Interests



Strengths

People are usually INTERESTED in things they are GOOD at.

These are your **STRENGTHS!**

You can use these strengths to help you in school and beyond.

Which of these things are you also GOOD at?



KEEPING IT STRONG

Reframing Characteristics — Looking for Strengths

Max – High School student at PS XXX

Strengths

What can he use them for in school?

Artistic- sketching & drawing

Reading/creating graphic novels in Language Arts class (reading and writing periods)

Works well with one other person

Can be an excellent lab partner in science

Great at computer games

Is there a computer/gaming club at the school? Share your expertise with others!

Because of Max's characteristics...

He was successful academically and socially!

Reframing Characteristics — Looking for Strengths

Let's think about High School...

Strengths

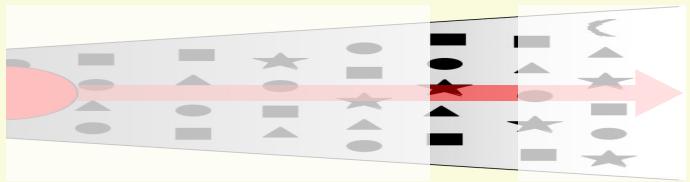
Let's think about the strengths you have identified. How could they could help you in school?

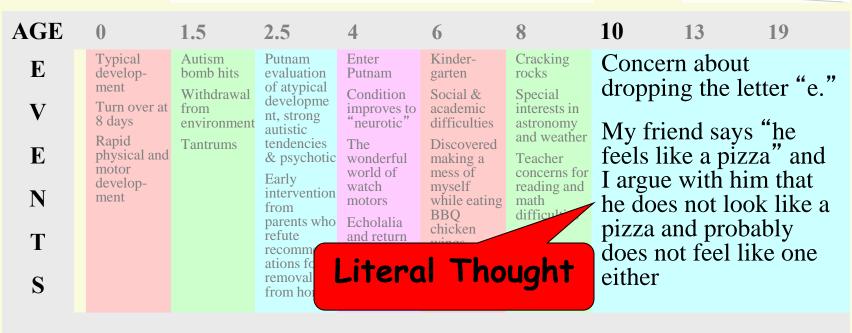
111141	What	can	you	use	+1	hem	for?
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Your characteristics can help you!

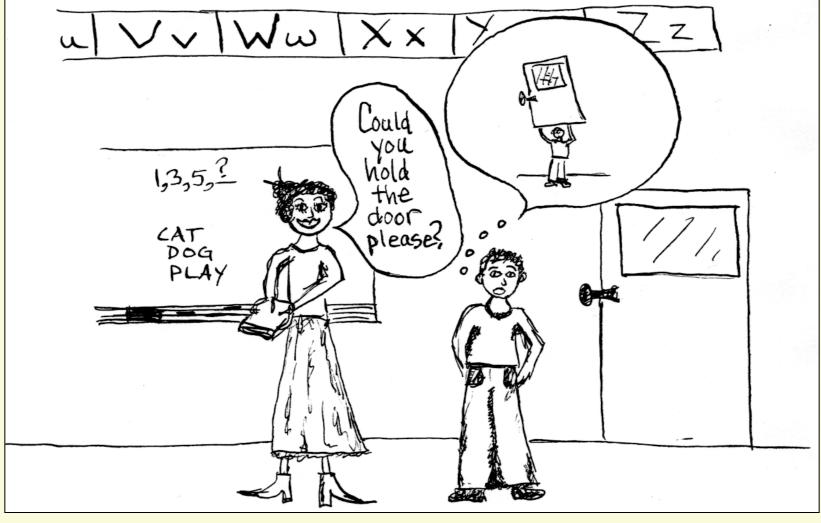
(40U might even outperform others!)

A CLOSER LOOK AT MY PLACEMENT ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM — 10





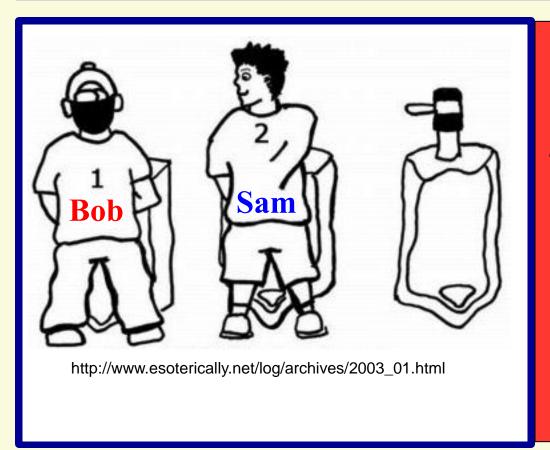
HOLD THE DOOR PLEASE?



Laura Jekel, 12/2000

THE HIDDEN CURRICULUM - COMMUNITY

Peter Gerhardt (personal communication, April 2004)



THE HIDDEN CURRICULUM

Practical Solutions for Understanding Unstated Rules in Social Situations

Brenda Myles Melissa Trautman Ronda Schelvan

Autism Asperger Publishing Company

Sam arrives after **Bob**. What two rules did he break?

WHAT IS THE HIDDEN CURRICULUM?

Explanations

- Set of assumed knowledge not directly taught...
 considered as universally known and understood.
- Often remains hidden until a social blunder occurs.

Implications

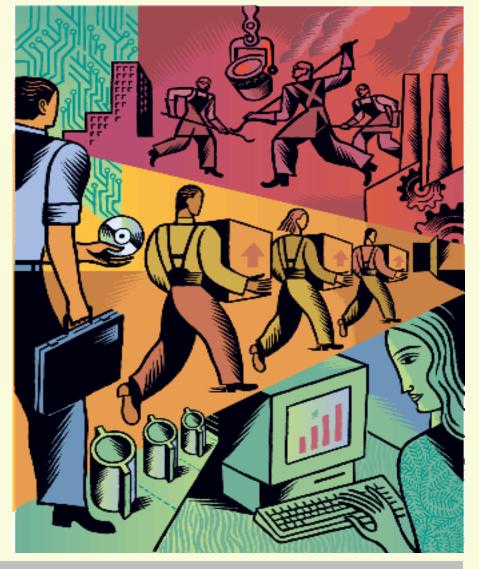
• Usually not found in written material such as a student code of conduct, employee handbook, etc.

THE HIDDEN CURRICULUM - WORKPLACE

Official/ unofficial Lunch hour organization Casual dress The customer is always right chart

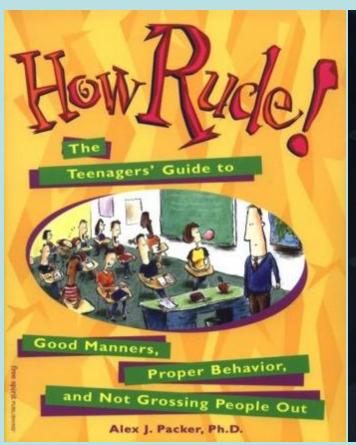
Use of business resources such as e-mail

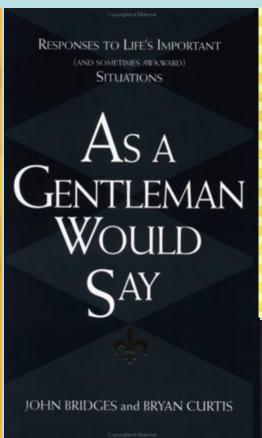
Who should be avoided? Disagreements with superiors

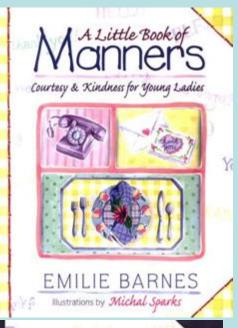


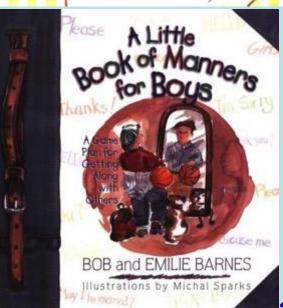
Adapted from Myles, B., Trautman, M., & Schelvan, R. (2004). The hidden curriculum: Practical solutions for understanding unstated rules in social situations. Shawnee Mission, KS: Autism Asperger Publishing Company.

INCIDENTAL HIDDEN CURRICULUM BOOKS









"Soft" Skills for Employment

Hidden Curriculum
Relationship Management
upervisors, Coworkers, Friendships
Scheduling
Executive Functioning

Seek... to understand all aspects of the hidden curriculum

Observe... what people are doing and NOT doing

Listen... to what people are saying and NOT saying

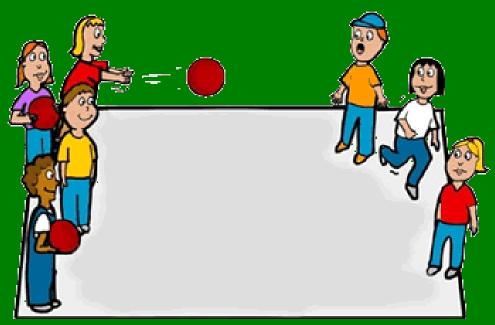
Vocalize... questions and check for understanding

Educate... teach and learn... knowledge is power

Planning for Success TODAY, TOMORROW, AND BEYOND







SOCIAL STORIES – by Carol Gray

Using vignettes to describe how social interactions work employing...

Descriptive Sentences: Background of situation

Directive Sentences: Suggests action and decode meanings

Affirmative Sentences: Suggests commonly shared values or opinions

- In order to keep your teeth healthy people need to visit the dentist every 6 months. *Descriptive*
- It can be hard for the dentist to do his or her work if you move around too much in the chair. Descriptive
- Having clean teeth is important for having a good smile. *Affirmative*
- When it hurts too much or gets too loud I will give the dentist a "cut" sign indicating I need a short break. Directive
- The dentists may talk to me or ask me questions during the cleaning but I only have to answer with an "uh huh" or "uh uh". Descriptive
- Getting my teeth cleaned may be uncomfortable but hopefully it will become easier with each passing visit. Descriptive

POWER CARDS - Gagnon, E. (2001). AAPC

Strategizing using these characteristics

1. The hero or role model: Motivating, build on relationship

2. Special interest: Motivating, nonthreatening

Components of these strategies

- 1. Brief scenario using hero or special interest and the behavior or situation that is presenting difficulty plus a relevant picture or graphic.
 - A. ¶ 1 Attempts solution to problem and succeeds.
 - B. ¶ 2 Solution presented in 3-5 manageable steps for the student to try.
- 2. The Power Card (size of a trading card, bookmark, or business card.
 - Aids in generalization.

Preparing David to Remain Calm

Power Card

Scenario: Before pulling into the dentist office, 7 year-old David starts whimpering and banging the doll of Chuck Yeager into the car door. His mother drags him into the waiting room. However, upon hearing the sound of the dentist drill from down the hall, he throws himself

onto the floor and has a meltdown rivaling the explosion of Mt.

Vesuvius. The appointment is rescheduled... again.

Task: Develop a Power Card to address David's tantram.

Analysis: Behavior

"Rumbling" behaviors in car followed by meltdown.

Possible cause

Anticipation of discomfort in the dentist's office.

Motivator: Special Interest/Hero

Chuck Yeager

Adapted from Gagnon, E. (2001) *Powercards*. Autism Asperger Publishing Company

Preparing David to Remain Calm

Power Card

Pilot Chuck Yeager wants you to remember to choose one of the following ways to help calm yourself when you start getting nervous about your visit to the dentist.

- 1. Take 5 deep breaths exhaling slowly after each breath.
- 2. Close your eyes and slowly count from 1 to 20.
- 3. Play a round of "Mario" on your Gameboy.
- 4. Ask to take a short break.



SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION

"Brings unusual clarity to some of the most confusing issues surrounding neurotypic disorder and its treatment."

Understanding Neurotypicals FOR DUMMIES

- Learn to decode nonspectrum behavior
- Educate children on radical acceptance of differences
- Successfully communicate without eye contact



A Reference for the Rest of Us!

SETTING THE STAGE FOR EMPLOYMENT SUCCESS THROUGH AWARENESS OF STRENGTHS AND CHALLENGES

USING YOUR STRENGTHS TO DO A BETTER JOB

Reframing Characteristics — Looking for Strengths

José – Accurate sorting of passenger baggage to correct locations

Characteristics

Employment Implications

Communication

Receptive > Expressive, 2-3 word commands rather than conversation, literal

Social Interaction

Limited and predictable

Restricted Interests

All airport code information is memorized – his coworkers need references

Because this individual has autism...

He outperforms his typical coworkers

Reframing Characteristics — Looking for Strengths

Name School Ta	ask/Activity
----------------	--------------

Strengths	What can you use them for?
	·

Because of your characteristics...

4000 might even outperform others!

SOMETIMES AN ENDEAVOR DOES NOT WORK OUT





AND A CHANGE IN PLANS IS REQUIRED

Reframing Characteristics — Looking for Strengths

Burton – Professor of Mathematics

Characteristics

Employment Implications

Communication

Detailed, factual, data-driven, truthful, preview, subject, review

Social Interaction

Limited and predictable

Restricted Interests

Area of focused interest

Because Burton has autism...

He outperforms his typical coworkers

ACHIEVING EMPLOYMENT SUCCESS

Matching Needs to Possible Positions

Personal Characteristics	Preferred Job Attributes	Possible Positions
Challenges in verbal and nonverbal communication	Few communication requirements	Stock shelves
Challenges in socialization	Limited contact with public, more solitary job duties	Filing, sorting, stapling paper shredding, after-hours cleaning
Unusual response to	Provider of preferred	Hanging clothes,
sensory stimulation	sensory input, ability to avoid noxious sensory stimulation	washing cars (for those enjoying that type of tactile input

ACHIEVING EMPLOYMENT SUCCESS

Matching Needs to Possible Positions

Personal Characteristics	Preferred Job Attributes	Possible Positions
Strong visual-motor skills	Requires good visual-motor skills	Small-parts assembly, manufacturing, printing
Behavior challenges	Few antecedents to challenging behaviors, with situations where possible problems don't endanger others	Situations where behavior doesn't cause dangerous situations; avoid factories or jobs using heavy machinery
Savant skills	Responsibilities capitalizing on these strengths	Matching stock numbers to packing lists, mathematically oriented positions for those with good math skills

ACHIEVING EMPLOYMENT SUCCESS

Matching Needs to Possible Positions

Personal Characteristics

Preferred Job Attributes

Possible Positions

Rituals and compulsions

Attention to detail and order

Asperger Syndrome at work: Success strategies for employees and employers Positions with repetitive tasks that must be done with high accuracy, such as counting items to be placed into packages or looking over products for defects

Coulter Video

www.coultervideo.com

SELF-ADVOCACY

You're Lost... And you ask someone for directions...

"After the 6th light you look for the big tree on the left and take the third right. Then after the second church you see a fire station and go left. After going left you take a right at Tom Street. Drive for 4 blocks and keep bearing right until you see a stream on left which tells you to take a bridge on the right headed towards the water tower. When you pass the water tower take he second left and pull into a parking space in front of International Bicycle Shop and you are there!

Wow!!! Too much to remember! What are you going to do?

- **1.** You suddenly realize there's way too much information for you to remember
 - **2.** Hold on a moment! Can you wait a moment while I get something to take this down?
 - **3.** I won't remember it all! Thanks for waiting...

SCANNED

ADVOCATED

DISCLOSED

Disclosure – Telling another one has autism

—Help George plan how to tell another he has autism—

The best teller in the bank, George never uses a calculator and has cashed out to the penny for the past 15 months. He is also the first to help others having difficulties balancing their books, much to his coworkers' gratitude – especially to Jane who is the bank's star person to go to when there is a customer dispute.

However George has dozens of notes stuck chaotically all over teller window and workspace. Conversations with his supervisor about an orderly workspace result in George indicating the necessity of these notes for remembering complicated bank procedures. Given his great efficiency and good nature, the branch supervisor leaves George to his work, albeit mystified.

A manager from corporate headquarters is coming next week. As a result, the supervisor has asked George to make an appointment with him to discuss the necessity of a clean, organized work space.

Until now, George has never felt a need to disclose having autism and advocating for himself to anyone. Given the recent turn of events, George now realizes perhaps this time has come.

Help George...

• Advocate for his needs using the 3 step model for selfadvocacy.

Self-Advocacy

- 1. Scan
- 2. Advocacy
- 3. Disclosure a. full or... b. partial

ACHIEVING EMPLOYMENT SUCCESS

Determining Career Matches – Possible Employment Structures

- Competitive employment
- Full-time employment
- Part-time employment
- Permanent employment
- Short-term jobs
- Seasonal jobs
- Self-employment / Micro-enterprise

ACHIEVING EMPLOYMENT SUCCESS

Other Things to Keep in Mind

- Use state vocational rehabilitation counselors
- Find jobs with consistent routine, social interactions, and well-defined tasks to increase chances for success.
- Create accessible work environments
 Small adaptations can make a huge difference and improve employment opportunities.

Example: Written instructions are often processed better than Self-advocacy uctions. Ask for typed directions. Employers can ed instructions rather than just saying them.

3. Disclosure

http://www.icare4autism.org/ global-autism-center/comprehensive-autism-workforce-development-initiative/



http://asperger-employment.org/



ASPERGER SYNDROME TRAINING & EMPLOYMENT PARTNERSHIP

promoting employment for adults with Asperger Syndrome and high functioning autism



We create and support programs for employers that promote long-term employment of individuals with Asperger Syndrome (AS) and similar autism spectrum profiles by:

- Educating employers about the benefits of employing individuals with AS or similar autism spectrum profiles and the accommodations they may require.
- Working with employers to recruit and transition to work individuals with AS or similar autism spectrum profiles.
- Supporting companies in their quest to be autism-friendly employers.

Your donation can help ASTEP take workplace diversity to the next level.

DONATE

Shop at AmazonSmile and Amazon will make

and Amazon will make a donation to:

https://www.autismspeaks.org/family-services/tool-kits/employment

The Employment Tool Kit is divided into the following sections:

Introduction

Self-Advocacy

What Job is Right For You?

Benefits and Funding

Employment Models: What Option is Best For You?

Your Job Search

Transportation Options

Resumes, Cover Letters and Applications

The Job Interview

Accommodations and Disclosure

Soft Skills: Understanding the Social Elements of Your Job

Success Stories and Lessons Learned

My Employment Rights

Glossary of Terms

Employment Resources

Step-by-Step Guide to Your Employment Search





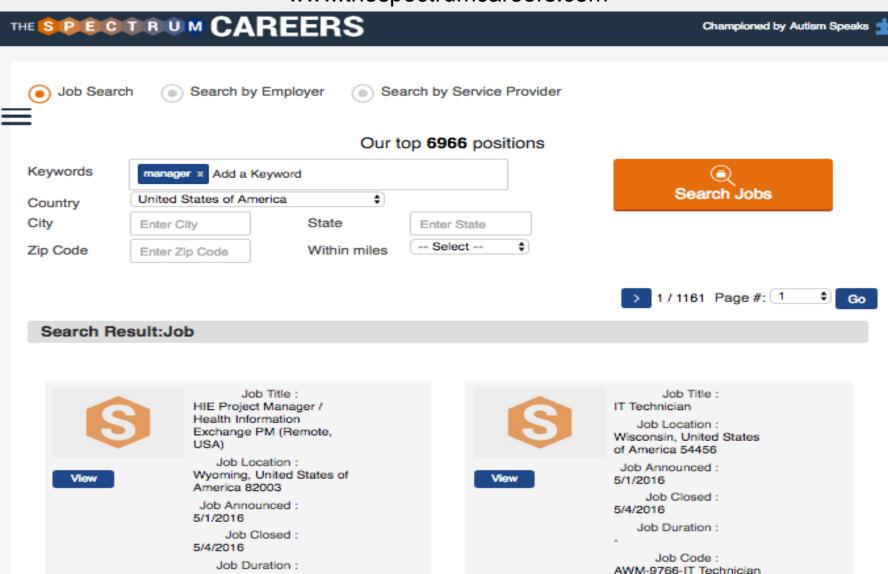








www.thespectrumcareers.com



http://usa.specialisterne.com/







Welcome to Specialisterne USA

The New York Times

Read the article "The Autism Advantage" where Thorkil Sonne is betting that, given the right environment, an autistic adult could not just hold down a job but also be the best for it.

http://go.sap.com/index.html

On May 21, 2013, SAP announced we will work globally to employ people with Autism.



http://www.theregister.co.uk/2016/02/09/microsoft_recruiting_autistic_techies/



http://www.autismworksnow.org/



ome Job Seekers Employers About Us

out Us Media Classes





































Our Mission

Autism Works Now educates employers and places individuals on the spectrum in meaningful jobs.

Resources and Materials for High Schools

Preparing Transition Age Youth with Autism for Employment



Modules

400- Evaluation Questions

401- Overview

450- Telling My Story

451- Senses and Sensibilities

452- Social Skills for the Workplace

453- Stress Busters

454- The Hidden Curriculum

455- Self-Advocacy and Disclosure

456- Do's and Don'ts of Social Medi

457- Staying Focused

9 Modules

What is a module?

400- Evaluation Questions

401- Overview

450- Telling My Story

451- Senses and Sensibilities

452- Social Skills for the Workplace

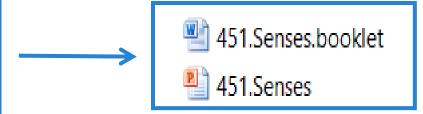
453- Stress Busters

454- The Hidden Curriculum

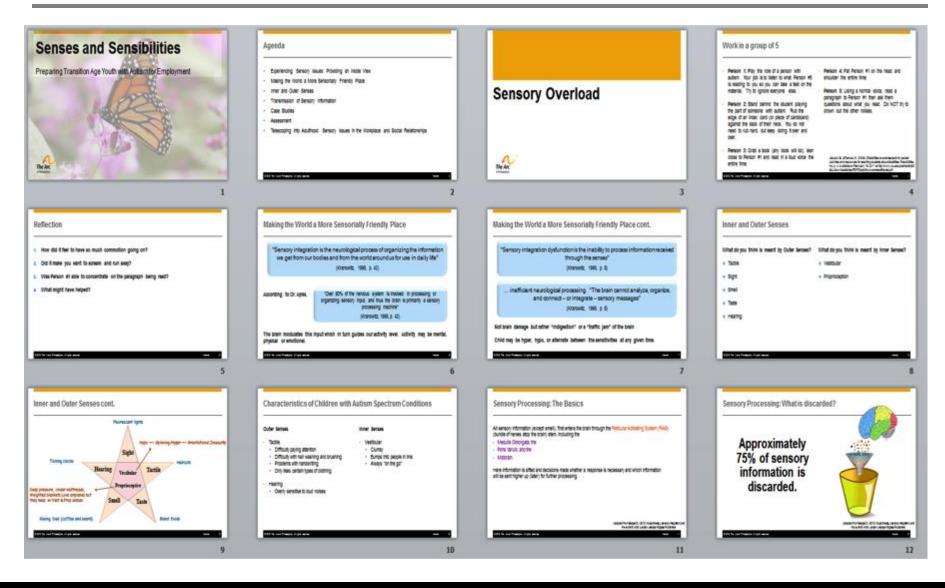
455- Self-Advocacy and Disclosure

456- Do's and Don'ts of Social Medi

457- Staying Focused



PowerPoint Presentations



Booklets

Soft Skills Training for the Workplace

451:

Senses and Sensibilities

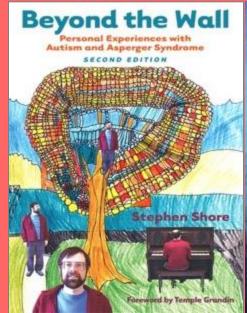


Sensory Overload: Reflection		.	Inner and Outer Se	nses	
1.	How did it feel to have so much commotion going on?	- 1	Which or your oute	r senses is/are most sens	itive? What about your inne
			Inner		Outer
		.			
2.	Did it make you want to scream and run away?	- 1			
		٠ ا			
3.	Was Person#1 able to concentrate on the paragraph being read?				
	What wish have beloned 0				
4.	What might have helped?	- 1			
			Sensory Processin	g	
			Case Study I: The L While at work. Keith wo	_	ven after frequent questioning from
		- 1	supervisor, Keith's resp	onses are the same" "I don't	like those lightsi ^a
		- 1	Arrive at a possible	explanation of Keith's be	havior, and suggesta possit
		- 1			
		- 1			
		- 1			
		- 1			
		- 1			
		- 1			

Thanks for your participation!

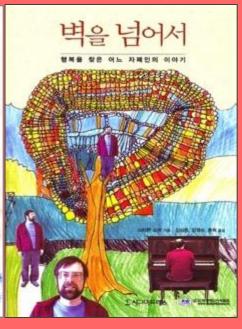


Stephen Shore www.autismasperger.net









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