

# AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER

## A Guide for Educators

As educators, creating a conducive classroom environment to accommodate diversity is extremely important. Autism Spectrum disorder is a neurodevelopmental disorder that limits social interactions and communication capabilities. Every child with autism has unique needs and behaviours.

Here are some tips to help you effectively navigate a classroom with individuals with ASD.

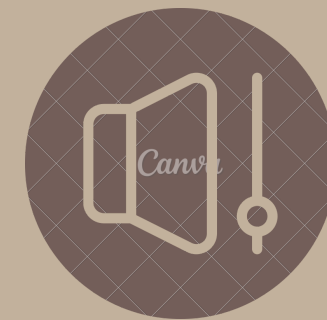
### Create inclusive classrooms

Autistic children are able to focus better if there are no bright lights or loud sounds which can overwhelm them. Try to enforce the idea of equality among students and treat everyone in the same manner so that they don't feel the discrepancy



### Keep voice low and clear while teaching

Autistic children become agitated and confused if a speaking voice is too loud. While teaching or talking to them, refrain from shouting or screaming and clearly explain your point to them.



### Limit physical contact

While this is a good strategy for all children, autistic children cannot properly interpret body language and touch, so minimal body physical contact is best.



### Promote social interactions

Encourage and promote one to one interactions with students to promote social skills. Since autistic children have a problem with social skills and appropriate social behaviour this is very important. Opportunities for social interaction might have to be structured at first, but with practice, they will start to understand social interactions. Peer buddy systems can be beneficial to encourage such interactions on a one on one basis.