



10 Tips for working with children with social, motor and communication difficulties

1. Get the child's attention prior to giving instructions! Get closer, call their name, make eye contact, or lightly touch to gain attention
2. Pair your words with visual supports! Use gestures, white boards, and model & demonstrate what you are asking
3. Keep activities moving, and short! Avoid long lines and delays between action & execution
4. Engage children during "down time" (waiting in line, etc), to keep attention and motivation strong. Play games, talk, or practice a skill!
5. Repeat yourself, and check for understanding. If a child does not answer you, don't stop and give up! Try again!
6. Recognize distractions, and work to be the most important presence for your child, vs. trying to compete with other sights and sounds
7. Provide more praise, in the form of smiles, cheers, thumbs up, then correction. Look for a 4:1 ratio, praise to correction!
8. Keep information short! Don't talk too long, or over-explain!
9. Partner students up, to help each other
10. Keep it fun!