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Presentation/Module: *Tips for working with students that have disabilities*

Handout: *What is Autism/Asperger’s Syndrome?*

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a developmental and neurological condition that affects individuals' communication, behavior, and social interactions. It includes a range of conditions, such as Asperger’s syndrome, with varying levels of support needed based on the severity of symptoms. The exact causes of ASD remain unknown, but research points to genetic and environmental factor

Directions: Read the articles *Mathematical ability of students with Asperger syndrome and high-functioning autism: A review of literature* by Chiang and *Encouraging Students with Learning Disabilities* by Hord, et al., and conduct your own additional research as well on Autism and Asperger syndrome. Then, briefly summarize Autism/ASD by researching it causes, symptoms, signs, and treatments, and describe strategies that may help you tutor someone with Autism/ASD.

Strategies for Tutoring Students with Autism/ASD

Build Routine and Structure:

Establish consistent session schedules to reduce anxiety.

Use visual aids, checklists, and clear agendas to guide lessons.

Simplify Communication:

Use clear, concise, and literal language. Avoid idioms or metaphors.

Break down instructions into small, manageable steps.

Leverage Interests:

Incorporate topics of interest to engage the student.

Use their favorite subjects as a foundation to teach broader concepts.

Create Sensory-Friendly Environments:

Limit noise, distractions, or bright lighting.

Allow for sensory breaks when needed.

Use Positive Reinforcement:

Celebrate achievements, no matter how small, to encourage learning.

Be Flexible and Patient:

Adapt teaching methods based on the student’s preferences and responses.

Understand that progress may take time and requires persistence.

Collaborate with Others:

Communicate with caregivers, teachers, and therapists to align strategies.

Incorporate goals from IEPs or other support plans into sessions.