

Strategies for Autistic Children

EAEC6002 -1500051

What is Autism?

Autism is a lifelong disability that affects the way that people see the world and the way in which they might interact with others. It is likely that children with autism will see, hear and feel the world very differently to someone who is not autistic. Autism cannot be cured and can become part of a person's personality and identity.

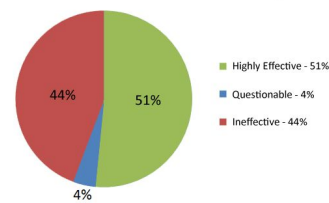
Strategy 1 - Social Stories

Social stories was one of the support strategies that they looked at. Carol Gray created these social stories in 1991, in hope to allow children to see the story or a screenshot of how a particular situation will happen and what they can expect during the situation. (The national autistic society, 2018). By ensuring autistic children specific details on what will happen and what they are expected to do it can stop them from getting upset and frustrated. There are a range of different ways that social stories can be used in order to encourage and develop children's social skills. They can be used for simple everyday tasks such as getting dressed, brushing their teeth to helping an autistic child to get used to a change of routine. They can also be used with other members of the child's family and friends in order to gain some understanding on how children with autism may think and feel.

Theorists

When looking at Bronfenbrenner's theory and throughout his five sections practitioners are able to see that children should be meeting some of these circles throughout their early years. For children with autism this can sometimes be an issue as previously mentioned children with autism suffer widely with social issues which links back to the two intersections within the early years and for children with autism it can be difficult for children to understand the importance about social interaction. (Psychology Notes, 2013).

Effectiveness of Social Stories from Kokina and Kern's 2010 Meta-Analysis



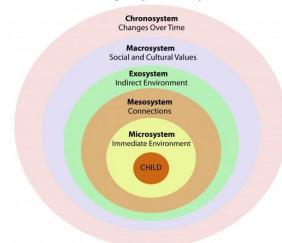
(Social Story Effectiveness Percentages from Kokina and Kern's 2010 Meta-Analysis)

Strategy 2- Visual supports

Visual supports can be used to help provide structure and can also be used to help children to understand about routines and encourage their independence. It is important for children with autism to still be encouraged to use their independence as children with autism do not want to be treated differently or want to be seen as being different to a child without autism even though they might be unable to communicate verbally. (National Autistic Association, 2018)

Visual supports can be used in a range of ways either to create complex sentences or to create simple sentences to enable children to be able to communicate easily. (National Autistic Association, 2018)

Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Systems Theory



Psychology Notes, (no date)

Diagnosing Autism

All aspects of life can affect children with autism however practitioners may find that children with autism may find a subject in which interests them and this can cause them to become 'obsessed' to this particular subjects. Autism can be hard to be diagnosed and can take up to 18 months for a child to be fully diagnosed. This is why it is important for practitioners to be able to pick up on signs in order to ensure early intervention as this will allow children to be able to gain help and support throughout their educational life.

To be diagnosed with autism children may have to go through a certain test in order to gain an understanding on how severe their autism is and what level of support they would be provided with, within the setting in order to allow them to develop. By getting a diagnosis not only does it help and support the child but it can also allow the children's friends and family to have a further understanding on why they may act the way they do.

Social Model of Disability

Disability Wales (no date) states that it makes the important difference between impairment and disability and helps people to gain an understanding on a wide range of disabilities or impairments in order to encourage children to find out more information about the many disabilities and impairments that are out there.

Medical Model of Disability

Gregory, 1997; Imrie, 1997; Llewellyn & Hogan, 2000 cited in Bricout, J., Porterfield, S., Tracey, C., et al. (2004) states that the medical model of disability is one of the most influential and wide spread models of today, due to the range of power and influence from a wide range of individuals whose perspectives are valued in the world of medicine. However after a further look into the medical model of disability, practitioners have noticed that children are beginning to feel devalued and dehumanized and it is important to ensure that children are picked up and supported throughout their education.

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