

Learning Preferences

The most common Learning Preferences in people with autism are:

- taking time to warm up to new people, tasks and settings
- thinking things through in a quiet setting
- working alone or with a close friend
- focusing on facts and details
- valuing steady, systematic work that gives results
- liking concrete, hands-on tasks
- working to a plan and schedule
- finishing what he/she starts without interruption

What do these Learning Preferences mean to how we help people with autism learn?

Here are a few ideas:

Prefer	Example strategies
Working alone or with a close friend	File folder activities, choose peer to work with
Quiet setting where there are few interruptions	Work carrels, reading barrels, ear plugs; forewarning of breaks
Time to warm up to new people, tasks and settings	Plans, advance notice, prior home practice
Thinking about something before being asked to respond	Numbering off students, learning about topic before class work, forewarning, signaling system for 'ready'/'not ready'


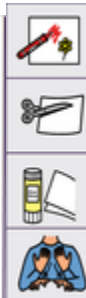


Prefer	Example strategies
Noticing details, facts, specific information	Research, gathering facts
Established procedures, precise directions and outcome criteria	Models, visual plans with step-by-step directions
Hands-on, experiential learning	Learning centers, shoe box tasks, file folder tasks
Practical information that can be applied to real life	Bridging to own experiences



Prefer	Example strategies
Understanding rationale	Reason for learning or doing a task or activity
Logical procedures and behavior	Plans, precise directions and expectations
Specific feedback on performance	Praising specific skill used ("you did X well")
Independent work or activities; personal challenges	Learning centers, file folder activities, self-monitoring

Prefer	Example strategies
Finishing tasks and projects	Checklists
Predictability	Plans, schedules
Being decisive	Checking own work against model or key to know when finished
Following plans or schedules	Checking off completed tasks

I need to:		To Do	Done
Finish my reading	✓		
Put away my book			
Take out my math homework			