



Monkshouse Primary Academy

Autism Friendly Environment

- We smile, are friendly and approachable
- We get to know each individual child and their needs
- We speak gently to reassure and encourage children to trust and respect us
- We are kind, understanding, patient and flexible when needed
- We have clear and consistent boundaries and consequences
- We display the daily timetable on the wall and talk about it each day
- We provide individual visual timetables when required
- We prepare children for any changes to their routine
- We use visual tools to help children understand their tasks and school day
- We use plain language, breaking tasks into short chunks and giving instructions one at a time with examples
- We allow children time to process information
- We use social stories to help children understand and introduce social skills and new situations
- We make the environment more comfortable, for example
 - ◆ Block out background noise with ear defenders
 - ◆ Make the area around the child low arousal
 - ◆ Give the child their own desk space and equipment if required
 - ◆ Have a quiet, safe space for the child to retreat to
- We allow children to have time out when they are feeling anxious using verbal cues and non-verbal cues such as a time out card
- We help children explain their problems using visual aids
- We appeal to the child's intense interests as much as possible
- We may use individual rewards charts and complete STAR behaviour trackers to understand trigger points and modify difficulties
- We work together with parents to find out what works best for each individual child
- We spend extra time preparing children for big changes such as a new classroom, through a planned transition