

Tazewell Mason Counties Special
Education Association

Winter 2021 Autism Newsletter
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Structured Work Systems: A Way to Get Students to Work Independently!

Many autistic students work well in a one on one instructional setting but how can a teacher get them to work independently so the teacher can instruct other students? One way is to set up structured work systems. These systems allow the students to practice and maintain a variety of skills independently. TMCSEA hosted a virtual workshop with Christina Reeve in October on this topic. Below are links to videos and articles on how to get started.

[Work System | Nebraska Autism Spectrum Disorders Network](#)

How To Use

Work systems can take many forms. No matter what type of work system is developed, it must be individualized to match the ability level and skills of the person using it. After the system has been taught, the system is moved to an independent work setting. The goal is for the system to be generalized to other settings such as general education classes, the home, the community, a jobsite, etc.

When an individual is using a structured work system, he or she would do the following in the designated work space:

- Look at the tasks or activities to be completed
- Begin working on the specified tasks in the designated work area
- Complete each work task or activity
- Place completed work in the finished area
- Move on to the next activity, according to his or her individual schedule

(AIMS, 2016)

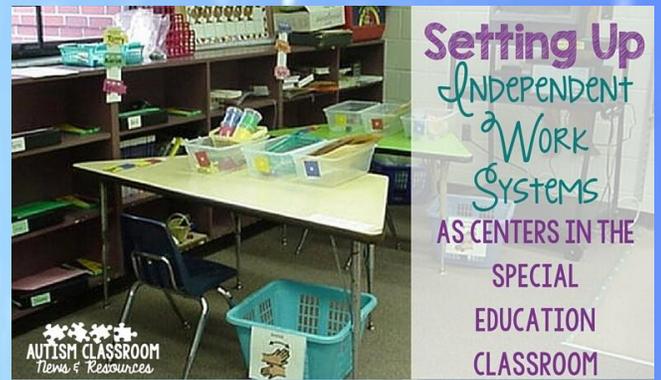
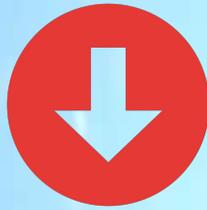
When To Use

Does your child/student experience:

- Difficulty knowing where to be when it is time to work?
- Difficulty knowing what work or activities to complete?
- Difficulty knowing how much work he or she needs to complete or how long the activity will last?
- Difficulty understanding when he or she is finished working?
- Difficulty understanding what comes after work completion?
- Difficulty with completing work due to distractions in the environment?

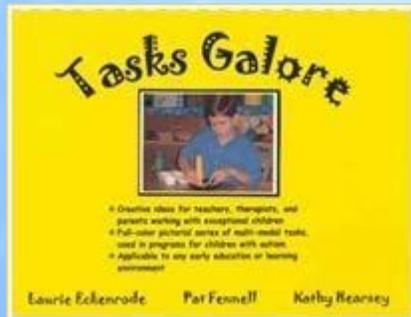
Structured Work Systems can help! Structured Work systems can be used in any setting with all ages of autistic students and can be created by parents, family members, employers, or educators. These types of systems not only promote independence, but also facilitate participation in school, social, and community activities.

WATCH ME! WATCH ME!



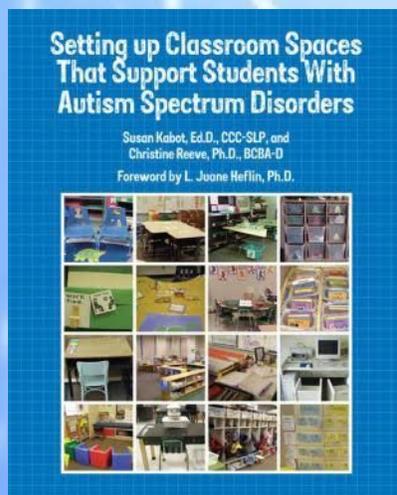
<https://autismclassroomresources.com/structured-work-system-centers/>

Here you will find not only how to set up work systems, but also various ways to implement the practice based on your population of students and their needs/abilities.



These books have great ideas for independent tasks and spaces.

They are available for checkout from the TMCSEA Autism Library.



Please email aealey@tmcsea.org if you would like to check either of them out.

