

Working with Children with Autism: Things to Consider

Adapting material and environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May need to adjust difficulty level of content/movement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Differs between classes • May take 1-2 classes to understand class abilities • Ensure no unnecessary distractions in dance environment
Timing and Pacing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assume it will take students longer to master content/movement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Adjust pacing accordingly • Wait longer before transitioning from one activity to the next
Specific Teaching Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regimented, set schedule – do not alter • May need to give more individual attention <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ More teachers in classroom • Be aware of interactions with students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ More lenience ○ Language and wording ○ Avoid triggers • Break down concepts into smaller chunks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Repetition of smaller concepts • Provide extra encouragement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “Roll with them”
Mindset	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexibility – thinking on one’s feet • Willingness to adjust lesson plan and teaching strategies • Recognize assumptions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Adjust expectations, celebrate small victories