

https://autism.lovetoknow.com/Ten_Gross_Motor_Activities_for_Autistic_Children

Free Games for Children With Autism

You don't need to spend a lot of money to enjoy playing games with your child. Try some of these free printable game ideas. If you need help downloading the printables, check out these [helpful tips](#).

Related Articles

- [Worksheets for Children With Autism](#)
- [Social Skills Activities for Kids with Autism](#)
- [Activities to Promote Language with Autistic Preschoolers](#)

Facial Expression Memory Game

Recognizing facial expressions can be a challenge for many children with ASD, however visual perception can also be a great strength for these kids. This memory game builds on the visual strengths, allowing the child to feel successful and encouraged. As you play, you can discuss the meaning behind the facial expressions and what makes each facial expression different from the others. This game is ideal for preschoolers on the spectrum.

Here's how you play:

1. Print out the memory cards at home on heavyweight paper. Cut them out.
2. Lay all the cards face down in a grid on the table.
3. Each player can take turns turning over two cards. If the cards are a matched pair, the player can set them aside and turn over another pair. If they are not a match, the player returns the cards face-down to the grid and the other player takes a turn.
4. The player with the most matched pairs is a winner.

image: <https://cf.ltkcdn.net/autism/images/std/223713-425x325-Expressions-Thumb.jpg>



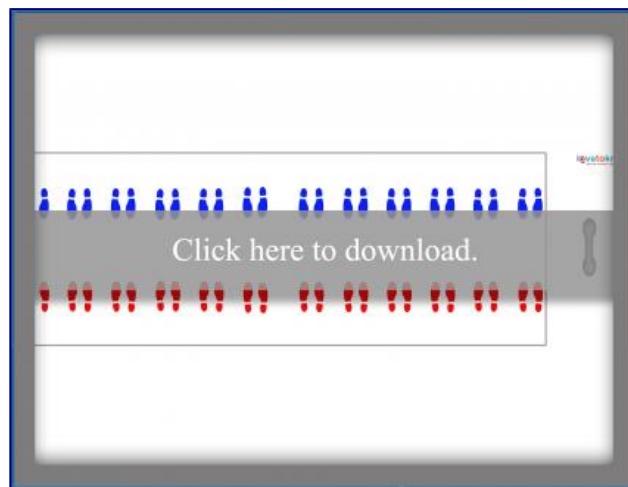
Step Together Board Game

Asking and answering questions requires a high level of engagement, and this can present a problem for some children with autism. This game requires a child to listen for answers, take turns, and ask the adult questions, all important skills for conversation. If it is appropriate for your child, you can expand the game by requiring the child to make eye contact before you agree to move the piece.

This is a great game for toddlers, preschoolers, and early elementary students. However, depending on the child's functioning level, this may be appropriate for other ages. Here's how you play:

1. Print out the game board and movement piece using cardstock. Consider reinforcing the movement piece by laminating it.
2. Place the game board on a table between the child and an adult or a peer. Both players should grasp the movement piece, lining it up with the toes of the first set of footprints on each side.
3. One player must ask the other, "Will we step?"
4. The other player must answer with "Yes" or "No." If the player says "Yes," both players can move the movement piece to the next set of footprints. If the player says "No," neither player can move.
5. Take turns until you reach the end of the footprints. As your child becomes familiar with the game, you can vary the language or add backward movements into the mix.

image: <https://cf.itkcdn.net/autism/images/std/223714-425x325-StepTogether-Thumb.jpg>



Work-Together Treasure Hunt

Combining different types of learning is a great way to keep kids with autism interested in a game. In this treasure hunt, children must work together or with an adult to find a prize. They'll use visual processing, strengthen communication and literacy skills, and use their bodies to participate. This game is perfect for older children since it works best if they can read the cards. However, younger children will enjoy this game when they play with an adult who can help them.

Here's how you play:

1. Print out the free treasure map and clue cards.
2. Hide a prize somewhere in the room. Write out clues on each of the clue cards, or draw simple pictures for younger children. Each clue will lead the child to the next clue card. Hide the clue cards in order and present the first clue card to the child.
3. As the child follows the clues, he or she can draw a map. This is a great way to translate spatial information, which can be challenging for some children with autism.
4. When the child finds the prize, he or she is the winner!

image: <https://cf.ltkcdn.net/autism/images/std/223715-425x325-TreasurePaper-Thumb.jpg>



Preposition Position Game

Directions can be challenging for any child, but they can be especially difficult for a kid on the autism spectrum. This game builds on visual strengths to introduce communication concepts.

This game is designed for up to four players. Here's how you play:

1. Print out the game board, markers, and preposition words, and cut them out.
2. Place all the preposition words face down on the table. Have each child select the marker he or she would like to use. Orient the game board so it is facing the children.
3. Each player takes turns drawing a preposition from the pile and placing his or her marker in a spot on the board. For instance, a child might draw the word "under." He would place his marker under something on the game board, such as the slide. Then he would say, "I am under the slide."
4. Provide a reward for each correct preposition. Depending on the social dynamic of the group, children can compete with one another or simply enjoy the game.

image: <https://cf.ltkcdn.net/autism/images/std/223716-425x325-Playground-Thumb.jpg>



People Bingo

Break the ice in new situations or classrooms with this fun, interactive game. Kids are challenged to move around the room talking to others as they try to find someone who matches each square on their Bingo board. This game is great for children with autism because they learn how to communicate with others and ask pointed questions. Some traits listed on the Bingo board are geared toward adults, so this game is best played in a classroom with one or more teachers or a group of parents with their children. This game is best for older kids who can read but can be played by kids of all ages with help from an adult.

Here's how you play:

1. Print out a Bingo board for each player.
2. Once everyone has a board, players start moving around the room engaging each other in conversation to find a person who fits at least one description on the board.
3. When a player finds someone who fits a description, he writes that person's name in the square with the description.
4. Remove the competitive element of making a row before anyone else and instead set a time limit of five or ten minutes for the game. When time is up, each player counts how many squares they filled. Everyone who participates is a winner.

image: <https://cf.ltkcdn.net/autism/images/std/223623-325x419-People-Bingo-Thumb.jpg>



Princess in Training Board Game

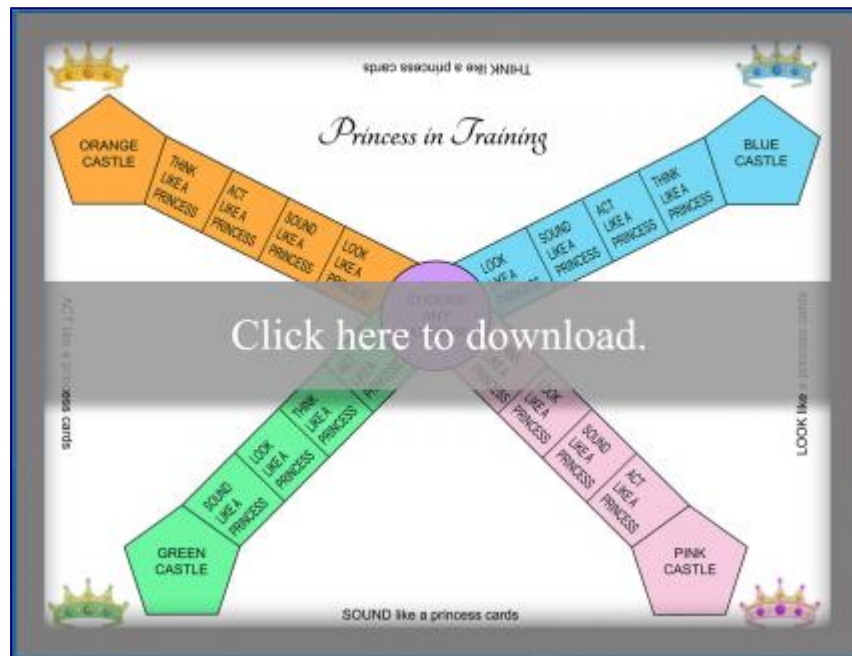
Expressing emotions and understanding others can be problematic for kids with ASD. In this printable board game, children perform simple tasks that ask them to look, sound, act, or think like a princess. Since you can play with two to four players, children can share the fun of this game with a trusted adult or play with a few friends. Either way, they'll learn empathy, social skills, turn-taking, and stepping outside of their comfort zone. Children of all ages can play, but kids under age seven would benefit from an adult assistant.

Here's how to play:

1. Print and cut out the game board, game pieces, game cards, and rules.
2. Gather a six-sided die, paper, and crayons.
3. Place the game board in the center of the playing area so all players can reach all sections of the game board.
4. Place the game cards in the designated spots and give each player a Crown Room Board.
5. Each player selects a princess and places her on the matching castle.
6. Players take turns rolling and moving their piece around the game board. On each turn, players must perform a task to earn a crown of the color space they've landed on. If the child does a good job completing the task, she earns a crown. If she is unable to perform the task, there is no penalty.

7. The first player to earn all five color crowns wins the game.

image: <https://cf.itkcdn.net/autism/images/std/223624-425x325-Princess-in-Training-Thumb.jpg>



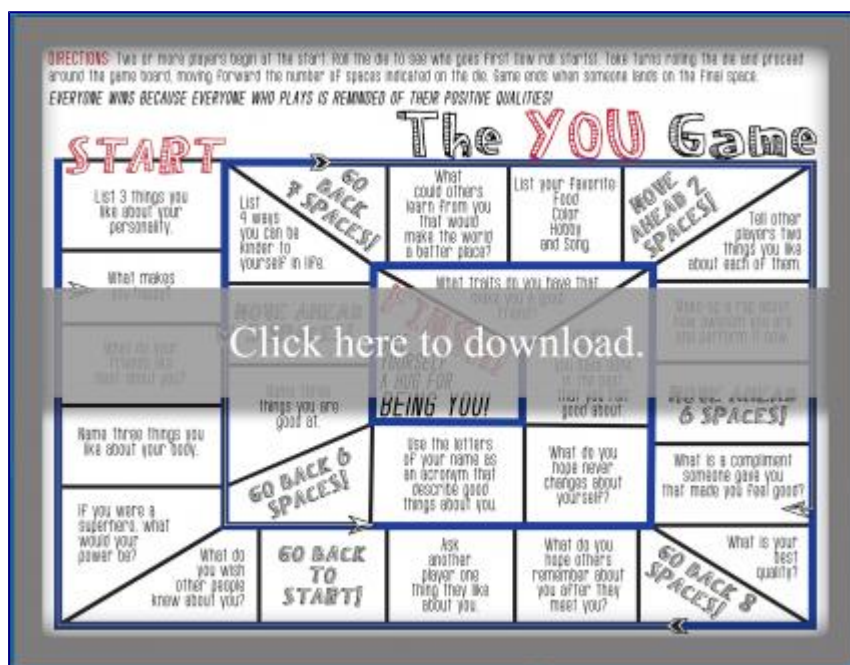
The You Game

Building self-esteem is an integral part of life for all kids, but especially for kids with autism who may have trouble understanding who they are and what values they adhere to. In this simple board game, everyone is a winner, and you can play with an unlimited number of participants. As players move around the game board, each space offers directions on something nice to say about yourself or others. Communication skills and self-awareness are explored along with healthy self-esteem. You'll also need a standard die and small objects to use as game pieces players can move on the board.

Here's how you play:

1. Print out The You Game board and place in between all players.
2. Place your game pieces on Start and take turns rolling the die to move around the board.
3. When you land on a space, read the directions then come up with things to say based on these directions.
4. The game is over when when a player lands on the last space, but there is no designated winner. The game ends with a self-hug for each player to celebrate themselves.

image: <https://cf.itkcdn.net/autism/images/std/223625-425x328-Self-Esteem-Game-Thumb.jpg>



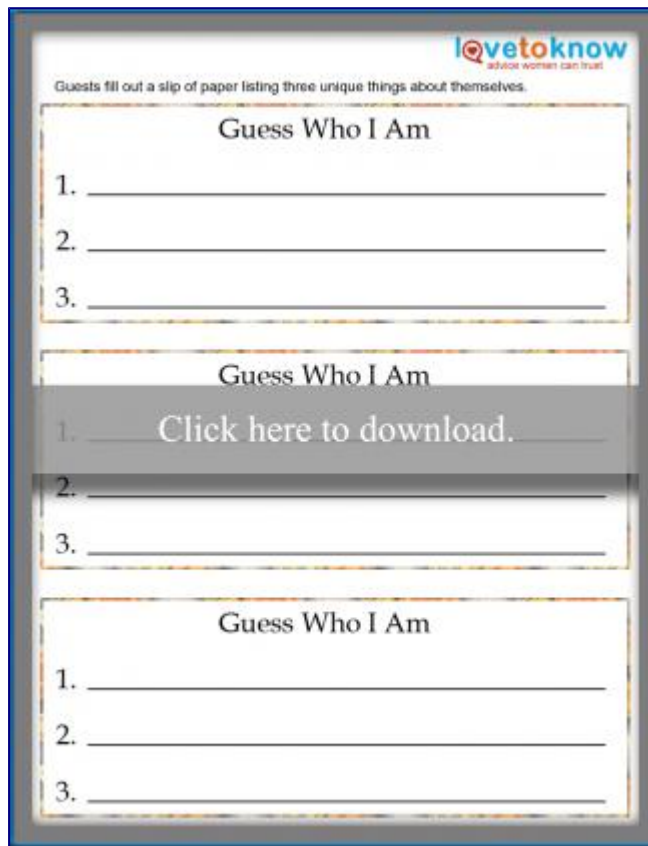
Guess Who I Am

Encourage critical thinking skills and group interaction with this ice breaker game. Each player writes down or draws three things about themselves that is unique on a slip of paper, then other players try to guess who filled out each slip. The nature of this game makes it best for larger groups of at least five kids. Children who can't write or draw can choose images from magazines or stickers to glue on their slip of paper, making this game ideal for kids at any age and skill level.

Here's how you play:

1. Print out the Guess Who I Am informational slips and cut into strips.
2. Give each player a strip and time to fill in three unique features. To make it easier, ask that players choose three things from a specific category like physical appearance or favorite things.
3. Once all slips of paper are complete, collect them in a large bowl or bag.
4. Sit in a circle and pass the bowl around to one person at a time. Each person pulls out one slip, reads it aloud, then makes a guess who wrote it. If the guess is right, the player passes the bowl. If the guess is incorrect, the player asks the group for help by pointing to one person at a time who can make a guess until the right answer is found.

image: <https://cf.itkcdn.net/autism/images/std/223626-325x419-Guess-Who-I-Am-Thumb.jpg>



Choosing a Game

When choosing games for children with autism, it's important to consider several factors to ensure the experience is a success. Keep the following in mind:

- Any special interests the child might have
- The child's age
- The child's developmental level
- Any social or language goals you want to address
- The child's attention span
- Whether peers are available to participate

An Amazing Tool

Games offer an amazing tool for working with children on the autism spectrum. You can use games to encourage desirable behaviors, connect with your child emotionally in a relaxed way, and facilitate interaction with peers. Most of all, games are a great way to share a simple, low-key experience with your child.

Was this page useful? Yes No

[Autistic Brain Games](#)

Trending in Autism

1. **Activities for Children with Autism** By Kate Miller-Wilson

309K

2. **Best Schools for Children with Autism** By Kate Miller-Wilson

148K

3. **Printable Games for Autistic Children** By Michele Meleen

143K

4. **What Is Considered Mild Autism?** By Kate Miller-Wilson

137K

5. **Aspergers in Girls** By Kate Miller-Wilson

118K

Worksheets for Children With Autism

image: <https://cf.ltkcdn.net/www/images/avatar/204723-64x64-headshot.jpg>



By **Kate Miller-Wilson** Author

image: <https://cf.ltkcdn.net/autism/images/std/201534-675x450-abaworksheet.jpg>



Since many children on the autism spectrum are visual learners, worksheets can be a very effective way to teach concepts. However, it can be difficult to find worksheets for children with autism that specifically target the issues that are most challenging. These free, printable worksheets from LoveToKnow are designed around the three diagnostic criteria for autism: communication challenges, impairments in social skills, and problematic behaviors.

Worksheets for Communication

According to the [American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual \(DSM-V\)](#), children on the autism spectrum typically display impairments in their communication skills. Depending on a child's age and functioning level, these challenges may affect his or her life in a number of ways. Communication difficulties can create social and behavior challenges since children on the spectrum may become frustrated when they are unable to request what they need in a social or practical interaction. Worksheets can help improve a child's communication skills and lessen the impact of these challenges.

Related Articles

- [Social Skills Activities for Kids with Autism](#)
- [Autism Printables Index](#)
- [Expert Interview: Do2Learn Activities for Autistic Children](#)
If you need help downloading any of the worksheets, check out these [helpful tips](#).

What Does My Body Say?

For children on the autism spectrum, nonverbal communication can be especially difficult. They may have trouble interpreting the facial expressions and gestures of other children, which can lead to social and emotional difficulties. Specifically teaching the meaning of common gestures can help when kids encounter those movements in their daily lives.

This worksheet shows children performing different common gestures. The child can draw a line from the gesture to the meaning of the gesture. For children who cannot read, you may need to state the gesture meaning out loud. As you work with the child, you can discuss the situations where he or she may encounter this type of gesture and the appropriate response to the gesture.

image: <https://cf.itkcdn.net/autism/images/std/214759-325x419-what-does-my-body-say-thumb.jpg>

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WHERE WEARY LIVES PLAY

What Does My Body Say?

People often tell each other things without using their mouths to speak. One way they can do this is by talking with their hands or bodies.

Can you match the gesture with the meaning? Draw a line from the picture to the words that go with it.

"Good Job!" 

"I don't know." 

Click here to download.

"Stop." 

"Look at this!" 

"Shh. Quiet." 

What Does My Body Say?

What Should I Say?

Functional communication, or verbally expressing wants and needs, can be very difficult for children with autism. Often, kids will simply become frustrated because their needs have not been met, even though they haven't communicated those needs to someone who can help. Working on functional communication can give a child the verbal skills he or she needs to request items or activities.

This worksheet shows children with obvious practical needs or wants. Examine the picture with the child, and then have the child write or say what the person in the picture needs to communicate. You can work with the child to refine the phrasing of the statement to make it clear. Talk about how the child might use these phrases in his or her daily life.

image: <https://cf.itkcdn.net/autism/images/std/214760-325x419-what-should-i-say-thumb.jpg>



What Should I Say?

Worksheets for Social Skills

Social skills impairments affect most children on the spectrum. Many therapists believe these difficulties are partly due to the **Theory of Mind**. This is the idea that children with autism spectrum disorders struggle with the concept of perspective. They may have difficulty imagining themselves in another child's place. Worksheets that focus on shared attention and perspective can be tremendously helpful.

What Am I Looking At?

One social challenge many children on the spectrum encounter is following another person's eye gaze. This is called shared attention. Often, these children may not notice that someone is looking at an object. If asked what another person is looking at, the child may imagine that the other person is looking at the same thing he or she is.

This worksheet focuses on eye gaze. In each picture, the child is looking at one of several objects. The child can draw a line from the person's eyes to the object that person is looking at. Since no reading is involved in this worksheet, you can use it with children who have not yet learned to read.

image: <https://cf.ltkcdn.net/autism/images/std/214761-419x321-what-am-i-looking-at-thumb.jpg>



What Am I Looking At?

How Do I Feel?

Part of taking another person's perspective is understanding how that person may be feeling emotionally in a situation. First, the child needs to assess the situation, and then he or she needs to pretend to be in that situation. This can be very difficult for children on the autism spectrum. However, having social relationships with peers requires this type of emotional perspective-taking.

This worksheet involves interpreting a picture and assigning emotions to the child in the picture. Talk about the picture with the child. Have the child describe what he or she sees, and then ask them to say or write how the person in the picture feels. For children who are unable to write, you can verbally go through the worksheet.

image: <https://cf.ltkcdn.net/autism/images/std/214762-325x419-how-do-i-feel-thumb.jpg>



How Do I Feel?

Worksheets for Behavior

Repetitive or problematic behaviors are another diagnostic criteria for autism. While stimming behaviors like hand flapping or rocking don't lend themselves to worksheets, other behaviors do. Printable worksheets that focus on appropriate behaviors can help children with autism function in the home or classroom.

Make a Mad Plan

Anger is a difficult emotion for any child, but for kids with autism, it can be nearly insurmountable. Many children struggle with how to express their anger or process the feelings before they react with inappropriate behaviors. For some, verbalizing their feelings may be challenging. For others, controlling impulses can be difficult. Having a clear plan for handling anger can be very helpful.

This worksheet is designed to help kids create a plan for dealing with their anger. All the methods on this sheet are socially appropriate ways for children to manage their feelings. Talk to the child about choosing a few of these options and then practice how the child might put this plan into place with peers.

image: <https://cf.ltkcdn.net/autism/images/std/214763-325x419-make-a-mad-plan-thumb.jpg>



Make a Plan

Goal for the Week

Everyone works better when there's a clear goal, and children with autism are no exception. In fact, many children on the spectrum love the idea of working towards something, especially if they can see and understand their progress. Additionally, if they can see a visual representation of the goal itself, they are even more likely to feel encouraged and motivated.

This worksheet focuses on a weekly goal, which you can display in picture form. When a child does something that moves him or her toward the goal, you can place a sticker or check mark on that section of the worksheet. Encourage the child to check the sheet on a regular basis to help keep the goal in mind throughout the week.

image: <https://cf.ltkcdn.net/autism/images/std/214764-325x419-goal-for-the-week-thumb.jpg>

I've got to know
about autism

Goal for the Week

This week my goal is _____

Paste picture of goal here.

Click here to download.

Sunday					
Monday					
Tuesday					
Wednesday					
Thursday					
Friday					
Saturday					

These are some of the ways I can earn my reward.

Goal for the Week

Tips for Auditory Learners

While **many children with autism learn visually**, some are strong auditory learners or have visual processing problems. If you are working with a child who learns by hearing, try some of these tips for using the worksheets:

- Read all text out loud.
- Describe the pictures in words.
- Verbally ask the child questions about the worksheets.
- Use vocabulary with which the child is comfortable.
- Allow time for the child to process this auditory information.

Other Resources for Worksheets

Keep in mind that the worksheets don't have to be created specifically for children on the autism spectrum; they simply have to meet your criteria while addressing your child's needs. Following are some ideas to consider organized by subject.

Reading

Reading activities can improve [communication skills](#) while building vocabulary. The ability to read builds on basic [sequencing skills](#). Some resources to consider include the following:

- [Phonics worksheets](#) can be extremely enjoyable for kids on the autism spectrum, especially if they are motivated by music.
- [Printable reading logs](#) help parents, educators and kids keep track of their reading progress. Encourage your child to talk about some of the stories listed on the log after each book is finished.
- Check LoveToknow's [Children's Books channel](#) for more free printables and downloads for kids.

Math Skills

[Printable math worksheets](#) may be educational in nature, but some children on the spectrum love counting, adding, and math puzzles. You can use math activities for sequencing, and these skills are integral to many other activities, including games and [music](#).

Life Skills

Worksheets can help with life skills and fine motor development. In addition, worksheet-based tasks can help build other critical skills required for daily living.

- [Handwriting worksheets](#) can help struggling writers achieve success. Some of the worksheets allow parents and educators to create their own activities, and choosing topics that the child finds interesting can be very motivating.
- [Printable chore charts](#) can help make daily chores clearly defined. Some kids may benefit from having a "Check Your Chore Chart" space in their daily schedules.

Fun

Worksheets for kids on the spectrum can include fun activities that are very motivating. Everything from printable puzzles to [travel games](#) are available at no cost. Check LoveToKnow's [Kids channel](#) for fun printable worksheets for kids.

Homeschooling Resources

Parents and teachers working with children on the autism spectrum can benefit from researching homeschooling resources. LoveToKnow's [Homeschooling channel](#) offers a generous list of resources that may come in handy.

Praise the Child

In addition to reinforcing communication, social, and behavioral concepts, completing worksheets can be fun too. Be sure to praise the child for his or her successes, however small they may appear. This positive attitude is just as important as learning tools like worksheets.



Trending in Autism

1. Adult Autism Symptoms By

Gabrielle Applebury

581K

2. Worksheets for Children With Autism By Kate Miller-Wilson

231K

3. Free Lesson Plans for Kids With Autism By Kate Miller-Wilson

176K

4. Printable Games for Autistic Children By Michele Meleen

143K

5. Activities for Autistic Adults By Adrienne Warber

108K

Social Skills Activities for Kids with Autism

image: <https://cf.ltkcdn.net/www/images/avatar/187427-64x64-headshot.jpg>



By Michele Meleen M.S. Ed

image: <https://cf.ltkcdn.net/autism/images/std/223728-675x450-teacher-with-kids.jpg>



From using and understanding nonverbal communication to initiating an interaction with peers, social skills can be extremely challenging for children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). In fact, since social skills challenges are one of the defining **diagnostic criteria of ASD**, they are a core area of focus for many therapists, parents, and teachers. Fortunately, there are many **fun activities** that help children learn to interact socially.

Five Printable Social Skills Activities

Children on the spectrum tend to focus on one **learning style**, rather than two or more like kids without autism. For visual learners with ASD, printable activities can be most effective in teaching social skills because the use of images plays to the child's strengths. Try one of these five fun printables to see if it becomes a new favorite. If you need help downloading a printable, check out these **helpful tips**.

Related Articles

- [Ten Gross Motor Activities for Autistic Children](#)
- [Activities for Children with Autism](#)
- [Social Skills Activities for Adults with Autism](#)

Sharing Social Story

image: <https://cf.ltkcdn.net/autism/images/std/223684-265x342-Sharing-Story-thumbnail.jpg>



[Print the sharing story.](#)

Sharing toys and materials involves taking turns, reading nonverbal cues, communicating verbally, and having empathy. Each of these independent skills is difficult for a child with autism, so it's no surprise that an activity involving them all would be challenging for these kids. A social story is a great way to explain the intricacies of sharing toys before your child is faced with an actual sharing experience. This activity combines a story about sharing with fun coloring pages for children to enjoy and provides an auditory and kinesthetic lesson. It is ideal for verbal and non-verbal preschoolers and young elementary kids.

Here's how to use this social story activity:

1. Click on the image of the printable and download it to your computer.
2. Print out the desired number of copies.
3. Create a small book out of the pages to the story.
4. Read through the story with kids, talking about how each character feels.
5. After reading, give kids crayons so they can color the pictures.

Facial Expressions Decoded

image: <https://cf.ltkcdn.net/autism/images/std/223685-265x342-Facial-Expressions-Decoded-thumbhail.jpg>



[Print the facial expression decoding activity.](#)

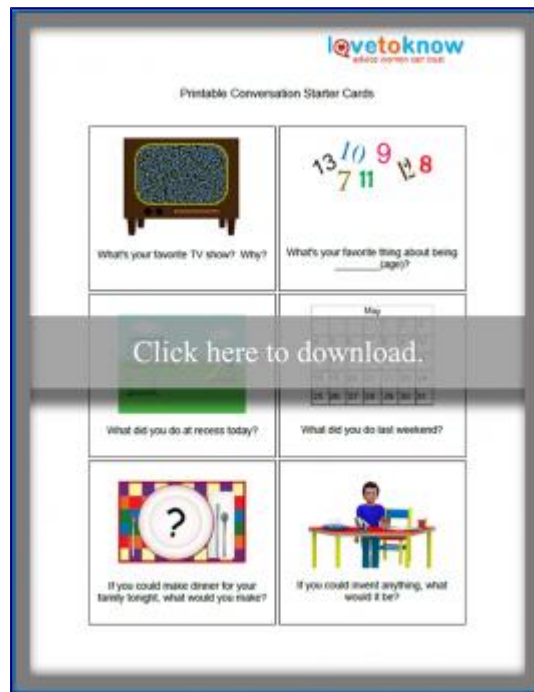
Non-verbal communication, especially **facial expressions**, can be a challenge for children with autism because they spend less time than others scanning someone else's face during interactions. Instead of focusing on the facial expression as a whole, it may be easier for kids to systematize the parts of the face that make the expression. In addition, practicing their own facial expressions can help them communicate effectively with peers. This activity works well for verbal or non-verbal kids of any age.

Here's how to use it:

1. Click on the image of the printable and download it to your computer.
2. Print out as many copies as you need.
3. Hand the copies out to kids. For those who can't yet read, have a paraprofessional or aide work directly with the child.
4. Give each child a small mirror.
5. Work together to practice reading and mimicking the various facial expressions.

Printable Conversation Starter Cards

image: <https://cf.ltkcdn.net/autism/images/std/223686-265x342-Printable-Conversation-Starter-Cards-thumbhail.jpg>



[Print the conversation starter cards.](#)

Initiating a conversation can be tricky, especially for children with autism. These kids may have trouble communicating in social situations because they aren't equipped with conversation strategies like opening lines, miss nonverbal cues to engage, and have trouble with empathy among other **reasons**. These printable conversation starter cards make a great in-class or at-home activity because they provide children with opening lines to start a conversation. Kids can practice with teachers and parents to perfect their skills. This activity is best for verbal, older elementary and middle school kids.

Here's how to use this printable:

1. Click on the image of the conversation cards and download the file to your computer.
2. Print the desired number of copies.
3. Cut out the cards and punch a hole through the corner. Tie them together with a piece of yarn. For extra durability, consider laminating the cards.
4. Have the child select a card to use and ask you the question on it. Respond as a peer might.
5. Pair children up to practice the conversations on the cards.

Shades of Truth Worksheet

image: <https://cf.ltkcdn.net/autism/images/std/223687-342x262-Shades-of-Truth-Worksheet-thumbnail.jpg>



[Print the shades of truth worksheet.](#)

Children with autism often think in absolutes, and this can be a social challenge when it comes to truth-telling. Researcher and author, [Brittany Thompson](#), shares how walking through social scenarios before experiencing real-world instances helps kids with ASD feel prepared. This worksheet helps kids understand situations where telling the complete truth may not be appropriate so they'll better understand the concept of honesty in more concrete terms. This activity requires reading, so it's best for verbal or non-verbal children in later elementary school or middle school.

Here's how to use it:

1. Click on the worksheet and download it to your computer.
2. Print the desired number of copies.
3. Pass the worksheet out to kids.
4. You can discuss each situation as you go through the worksheet together.

Keep It On Topic Game

image: <https://cf.ltkcdn.net/autism/images/std/223688-265x342-Keep-It-On-Topic-Game-thumbhail.jpg>



[Print the social game.](#)

Keeping the conversation on topic can be especially challenging for children with ASD because they have limited interests and the ability to focus only on those interests or get completely distracted by other stimuli says the [American Speech-Language-Hearing Association](#). The goal in this game is to encourage turn-taking in a conversation that must only be about the given topic. It's best for elementary school or older and requires kids to be verbal.

Here's how to play:

1. Click on the image and download the file.
2. Print the desired number of copies. You'll need one for each pair of kids.
3. Cut out the red and green tokens.
4. Pair the children into groups of two. The goal for each group is to have an on-topic conversation. You provide the topic.
5. Kids take turns in conversation about the provided topic.
6. Each time a child says something that's on topic, he or she receives a green light token. Each time a child says something that's off topic, he or she gets a red light.
7. Conversation continues until you run out of green light tokens or the decide to stop the game. The child with the most green light tokens is the winner.

More Fun Social Skills Activities

Whether you're a [teacher focusing on social skills](#) or a parent trying to help your child succeed, there are lots of fun activities that can help at any age. [Autism Educates](#) suggests making sure you

have your child's full attention before starting activities by removing distracting sights, sounds, and scents from the area then using touch to get his attention and incorporating movement into games and crafts.

Form a Band

Making noise is a fun way to interact together, and you can turn it into a social skill-focused activity about reading adult cues. This game is great for small groups of preschoolers. Here's how to play:

1. Gather up several instruments and give one to each child.
2. Explain you'll be creating music together but not everyone can play at once.
3. Instruct children to wait for you to point at them before they start playing. Tell them to stop playing when you point and shake your head.
4. Sit in a circle with the kids and practice the pointing and head-shaking cues in addition to the music.

Act It Out

image: <https://cf.ltkcdn.net/autism/images/std/223683-342x228-Social-Activity.jpg>



For older kids, interactive games like charades can be fun. You can give this activity a social skills focus by using scenarios related to social interactions and emotions. Here's what to do:

1. Brainstorm simple social situations and emotions.
2. Write these ideas on slips of paper. Put all the papers in a bucket.
3. Have each child draw a piece of paper out of the bucket and act out what it says. The rest of the group can guess.

Changing the Story

This creative activity is great for older kids, and it's a perfect way to focus on difficult peer interactions like **bullying**, since kids with ASD have more trouble discerning the intentions of others. Here's how to play:

1. Describe a problem scenario to the child or group of kids. It's best to choose something they may encounter in daily life.
2. Have kids brainstorm ways to respond. Write down all ideas and don't engage in discussion until everyone has had a chance to share.
3. Discuss which of the ideas are most likely to help.
4. Have kids vote on how they would finish the story.

Building Blocks of Friendship

Starting and maintaining [friendships](#) can be difficult, especially for older kids and teens with ASD because their peers care deeply about looks, similar interests, and the perception of others. Use logic in this hands-on, visual activity to show what a strong friendship is made of. Here's what to do:

1. Purchase standard, blank mailing labels and cut into smaller pieces or write with a marker directly onto Lego bricks or any other type of building block. Write words related to things that are important for a friendship, such as kindness, understanding, fun, care, and teamwork, on the longest blocks. Write words associated with bad relationships like teasing, name-calling, bad words, hitting, and stealing on the smallest blocks.
2. Have the teen build a sturdy structure using the bricks they think describe a good friendship.
3. Talk about why their structure is or is not the strongest it can be and, if needed, demonstrate how to build a strong friendship by literally building a pyramid shape out of the long bricks. Demonstrate how flimsy a structure loaded with the tiny bricks can be.

Follow the Leader

Recent [research](#) indicates girls on the spectrum have more trouble with organization in terms of daily tasks. Help your teen learn to be independent and focused at home with this simple modeling activity. Here's what to do:

1. Choose a daily task like making breakfast, getting dressed, or making the bed.
2. Ask your child to follow a few steps behind you and mimic each move you make.
3. Proceed to complete the task using a series of simple steps. For example, with making breakfast you might say out loud, "I'd like to have cereal today." Then get out a bowl, spoon, cereal, and milk. Next, pour the cereal and milk in the bowl and put each ingredient away. Now you can take your bowl and spoon to the table.
4. Ask your child to name each step she mimicked.
5. Have her complete the task and you mimic her movements.
6. Sit down together and eat the cereal and talk about any differences between your steps.

Go With the Flow

Older teens are faced with more opportunities to embrace independence, but they may not be as prepared for this freedom as you think says the [Child Mind Institute](#). Tools with visual cues and reminders help young adults on the spectrum make the most of new experiences like summer camps and even college. Here's what to do:

1. Choose one part of your teen's schedule to focus on in the activity. One easy example is leaving the house in the morning to head to school or work.
2. Grab a piece of paper and a pencil and have your teen brainstorm all the steps involved in this task.
3. Have your teen go through the list and number the steps in the correct order.
4. Write each step on a standard piece of copy paper, then lay all the papers on the floor in a random pattern about two feet apart in any direction.
5. Ask your child to walk directly from one "paper step" to the next in the correct order without touching an incorrect paper.

Moving Toward Social Success

No matter which activity you choose, working directly on social skills is a great way to improve a child's quality of life. Like everyone, children with autism want to interact with others. Having the right tools and enough practice can go a long way toward social success.

Read more at

https://autism.lovetoknow.com/Games_for_Autistic_Children#zIC64mkgoVJvo0bO.99