



Hancock County Autism Team



Looking for some new resources and intervention ideas?
Check these out!

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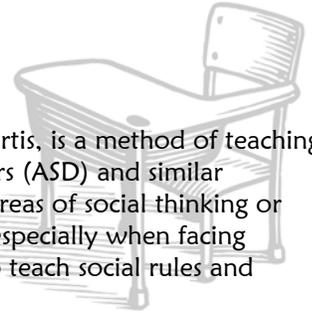
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1.) The Incredible 5-Point Scale

This intervention, developed by Kari Dunn Buron and Mitzi Curtis, is a method of teaching social understanding to students with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and similar challenges. Students with ASD typically have poor skills in the areas of social thinking or emotional regulation and often exhibit challenging behaviors, especially when facing difficult social situations. The objective of the 5-Point Scale is to teach social rules and expectations in a concrete, systematic, and non-judging way.



When using this method, a 5-point scale is developed (often in collaboration with the student) to address a challenging behavior (i.e., voice volume or frustration/anger levels). This scale provides a concrete way of rating levels of the targeted behavior, and can be used as a visual support to help the student in learning to modulate responses.

Following is an example of a 5-point scale for voice volume:

VOICE VOLUME FOR LARRY	
5 YELLING	Help!
4 LOUD	My Turn!
3 CONVERSATION	Hi Tony.
2 WHISPER	goodnight
1 NO SOUND	~~~~~

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Our goal is to address
the pyramid of needs of students with autism.

2.) Power Cards

A characteristic of students with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) is their tendency to have obsessive interests or preoccupations. **Power Cards**, a strategy developed by Elisa Gagnon, makes use of these student's special interest areas to help them make sense of situations they encounter on a daily basis. Specifically in the school setting it can help students make sense of social situations, increase their academic performance and follow daily routines.

Following is an example of a power card strategy developed for a student (Greg) who is prompt-dependent throughout the school day. Greg is constantly looking to his teacher or classroom aide to provide him with instruction. Per parent report, he enjoys cartoon videos, with *Charlotte's Web* being his favorite. The following scenario and **Power Card** were developed to address Greg's prompt dependency.

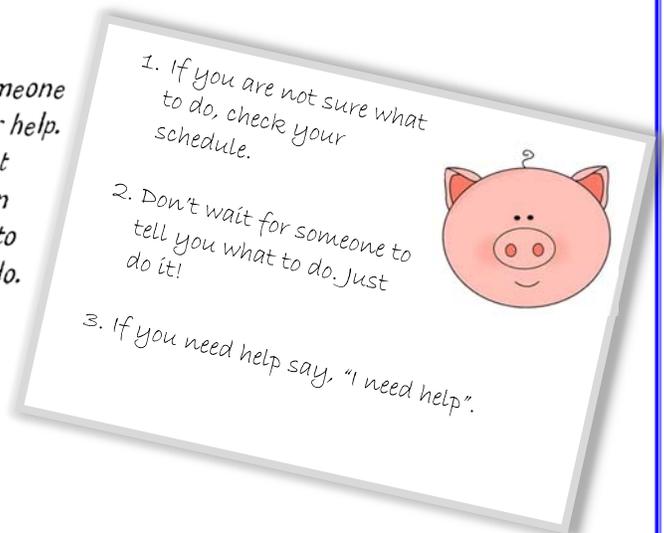
Wilbur Takes Charge

By Cindy Van Horn

Charlotte the spider loves her best friend, Wilbur the pig. Lately, Charlotte has been frustrated with Wilbur because he will not do anything unless she tells him what to do. Wilbur will not eat unless Charlotte tells him it is time to eat. Wilbur will not clean his pigpen unless Charlotte tells him to clean it. In fact, Wilbur won't even play with the other pigs unless Charlotte tells him it's time to play. Charlotte is tired! She knows Wilbur will be a happier pig if he asks for help instead of always having to be told what to do.

Just like Wilbur, it is important for all boys at school to be independent. It is important to do your work on your own without someone telling you what to do. If you don't know what to do, it is ok to ask for help. For example, boys can go through the lunch line by themselves without someone telling them every step they need to take. Of course, boys can always ask for help if they need it. Charlotte has decided she is going to wait for Wilbur to ask for help instead of always telling him what to do. She wants Wilbur to take charge!

Just remember Charlotte's three rules for taking charge:



3.) OCALI (Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence)

Per the OCALI website (ocali.org), The Autism Center at OCALI serves as a clearinghouse for information on research, resources, and trends to address the autism challenge. The center offers training, technical assistance, and consultation to build professional and program capacity to foster individual learning and growth. Follow links of the website to access The Autism Center which includes a resource gallery. Also via The Autism Center on this website, under ASD Training, you can find AIM (Autism Internet Modules). These modules cover a variety of topics and are designed to provide high-quality information and professional development for anyone who supports, instructs, works with, or lives with someone with autism. Each module guides you through case studies, instructional videos, pre- and post-assessments, a glossary and much more. AIM modules are available at no cost. If you would like to receive credit for your time on AIM, certificate and credit options are available for a fee.



The **AUTISM TEAM** is available as a resource to all district teachers. The Team does not diagnose or question an IEP and/or placement decisions, however, information collected by the Team through observation and assessment may be beneficial in further education decisions for the student.

The **Autism Tool Kit** has great items for use in your classroom. This 6-drawer cart holds materials and supplies. Some of the items available are a Fitball wedge cushion, weighted Shoulder Snake, and Focusing Fidget Kit. Check with your principal or an intervention specialist to locate a tool kit in your building.

The Incredible 5-Point Scale *continued...*

The Parent Mentor Library located at the ESC has several books that address the 5-Point Scale:



A 5 is Against the Law (Social Boundaries Straight Up—An Honest Guide for Teens and Adults) by Kari Dunn Baron This book uses a number scale to define social situations. It has a good explanation of how numbers can change due to age and circumstances. Anxiety curves are used to teach about controlling difficult moments and flow charts can be developed for gray areas.



When My Worries Get Too Big (A Relaxation Book for Children Who Live With Anxiety) by Kari Dunn Baron The 5-Point Scale is demonstrated with simple pictures and explanations. It offers suggestions about how the child might recognize anxiety and what he or she might do.



The Incredible 5-Point Scale by Kari Dunn Baron and Mitzi Curtis This book explains how to use a 5-Point number scale to teach social understanding to students with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Scales are visual and reduce abstract ideas to simple numbers. Examples are given on how to develop a scale and use it for given situations or with a social story.



A “5” Could Make Me Lose Control (An Activity Based Method for Evaluating and Supporting Highly Anxious Students) by Kari Dunn Baron This book is a tool that goes hand-in-hand with The Incredible 5-Point Scale. It contains a folder and picture word cards for young children and those with more severe communication needs. It’s a strategy for the student to illustrate why they do the things they do and what may make them behave in certain ways and helps them to understand what makes them anxious.

Hasbro and The Autism Project Team Up to Introduce ToyBox Tools

Global branded play leader, Hasbro, Inc. has announced the launch of ToyBox Tools, an initiative that aims to bring the joy of play to children with developmental disabilities. Through expertise provided by The Autism Project, who has a long-standing philanthropic relationship with the Hasbro Children’s Fund, ToyBox Tools provides a series of instructional videos, printed instructions, play-mats and more for several classic Hasbro brands. These supportive tools will serve as a free, online resource for parents, caretakers and educators to make play easier and more accessible for children who need support.

“Play isn’t always accessible out of the box for children with a developmental disability, which is something Hasbro was able to recognize and work towards finding a solution,” said Joanne Quinn, Executive Director of The Autism Project, part of Gateway Healthcare. “We are thrilled to team up with Hasbro to offer this original and free resource to parents, caretakers and educators in an effort to unlock the power of play and make it enjoyable for children at their own pace.”

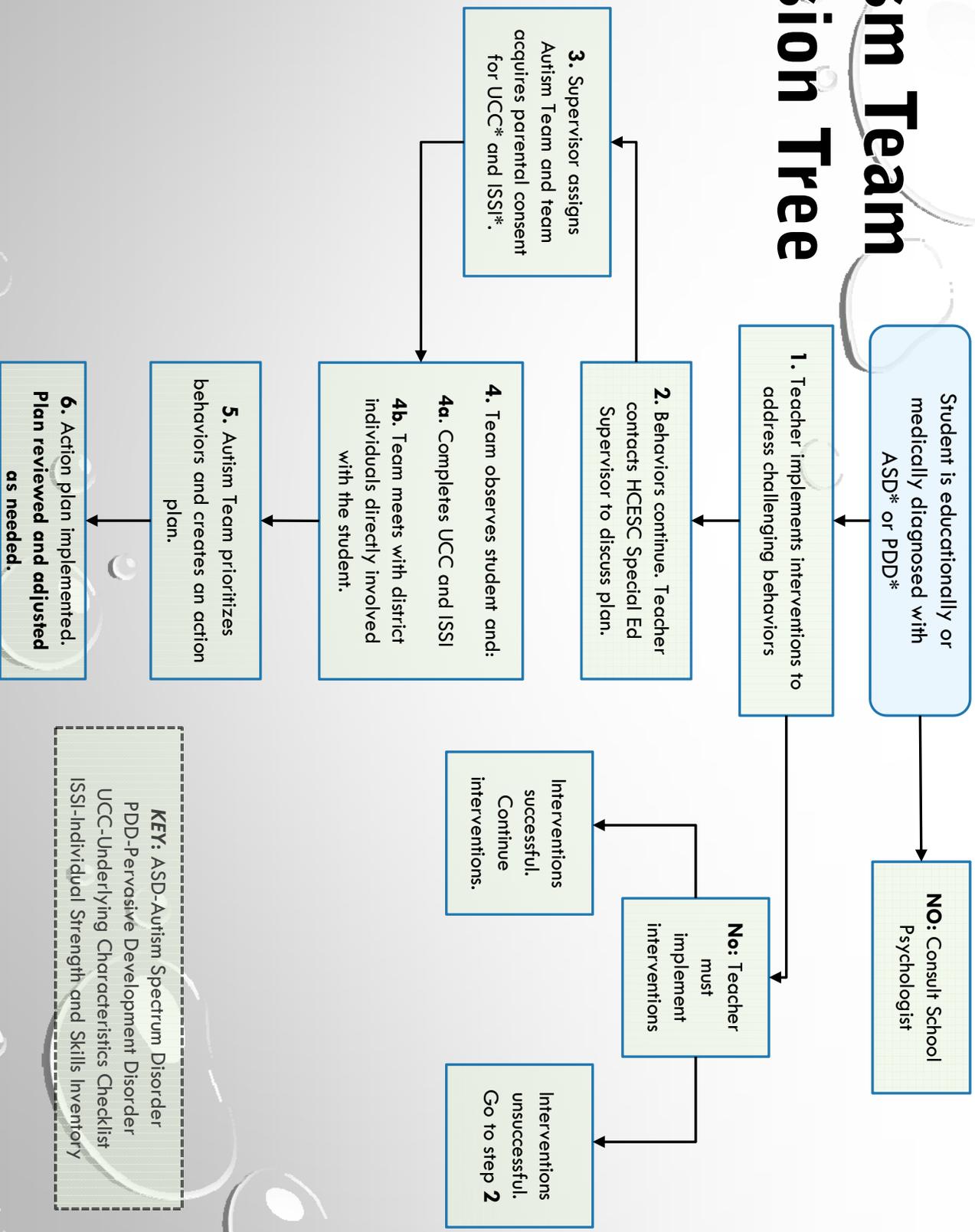
ToyBox Tools can help children experience the joy of play with three levels of tools available for those who need support: basic play, expanding play and social play levels. Parents and caregivers can visit the ToyBox Tools site, access the tools they need, and download and print them for use at home or in the classroom. Each level caters to different aspects of play that children may need help with, like simply introducing the toy and how to use it, experiencing alternative ways to play with a toy and encouraging turn-taking with peers.

ToyBox Tools recognizes that parents and caregivers know their child’s ability best and encourages them to use their judgment in selecting the right product and level of play appropriate for their child. Supportive tools are included for some of the classic Hasbro products, such as MR. POTATO HEAD, PLAY-DOH DR. DRILL ‘N FILL and TROUBLE.

For more information about Hasbro’s free and educational resource, ToyBox Tools, visit ToyBoxTools.com.



Autism Team Decision Tree



KEY: ASD-Autism Spectrum Disorder
 PDD-Pervasive Development Disorder
 UCC-Underlying Characteristics Checklist
 ISSI-Individual Strength and Skills Inventory