Module 1: Teaching young people with ASD/DS

Objectives

Understand the unique challenges faced by youth with ASD and DS

Learn effective teaching strategies

Promote inclusivity and create an inclusive learning environment

Common Challenges

- Sensory sensitivities
- Communication barriers
- Behavioural issues

Creating an Inclusive Environment

Recognise sensory sensitivities in students

- Provide sensory-friendly accommodations.

- Create quiet zones for self-regulation.

- Clear communication

Social skill development

- Teach essential social skills explicitly.

- Use role-playing and modeling.

- Practice patience and understanding.

Peer Involvement

- Encourage peer support and inclusion.

- Organise inclusive group activities.

- Foster understanding and empathy among peers.

Communication Strategies

- Visual supports (PECS, social stories)

- Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) devices

- Use of non-verbal cues

Teaching Strategies

- Structured Routines and Visual Schedules:

- Establish a consistent daily routine.

- Use visual schedules to help students predict and understand daily activities.

- Incorporate visual cues and timers for transitions.

- Task Analysis and Breaking Tasks into Smaller Steps:

- Break down complex tasks into manageable steps.

- Provide clear instructions for each step.

- Offer support as students progress through the task.

Teaching Strategies

- Differentiated Instruction:

- Adapt your teaching methods to accommodate diverse learning styles.

- Offer choices and alternative ways to complete assignments.

- Focus on strengths and interests when designing lessons.

- Multisensory Learning:

- Engage multiple senses in the learning process (sight, sound, touch).

- Use hands-on activities and manipulatives.

- Incorporate music, art, and movement into lessons.

- Visual Supports and Aids:

Teaching Strategies

- Utilise visual supports such as visual schedules, social stories, and visual cues.

- Create visual organizers for instructions, assignments, and expectations.

- Encourage students to use visual supports for self-regulation.

- Repetition and Consistency:

- Reinforce key concepts through repetition.

- Maintain consistency in expectations and routines.

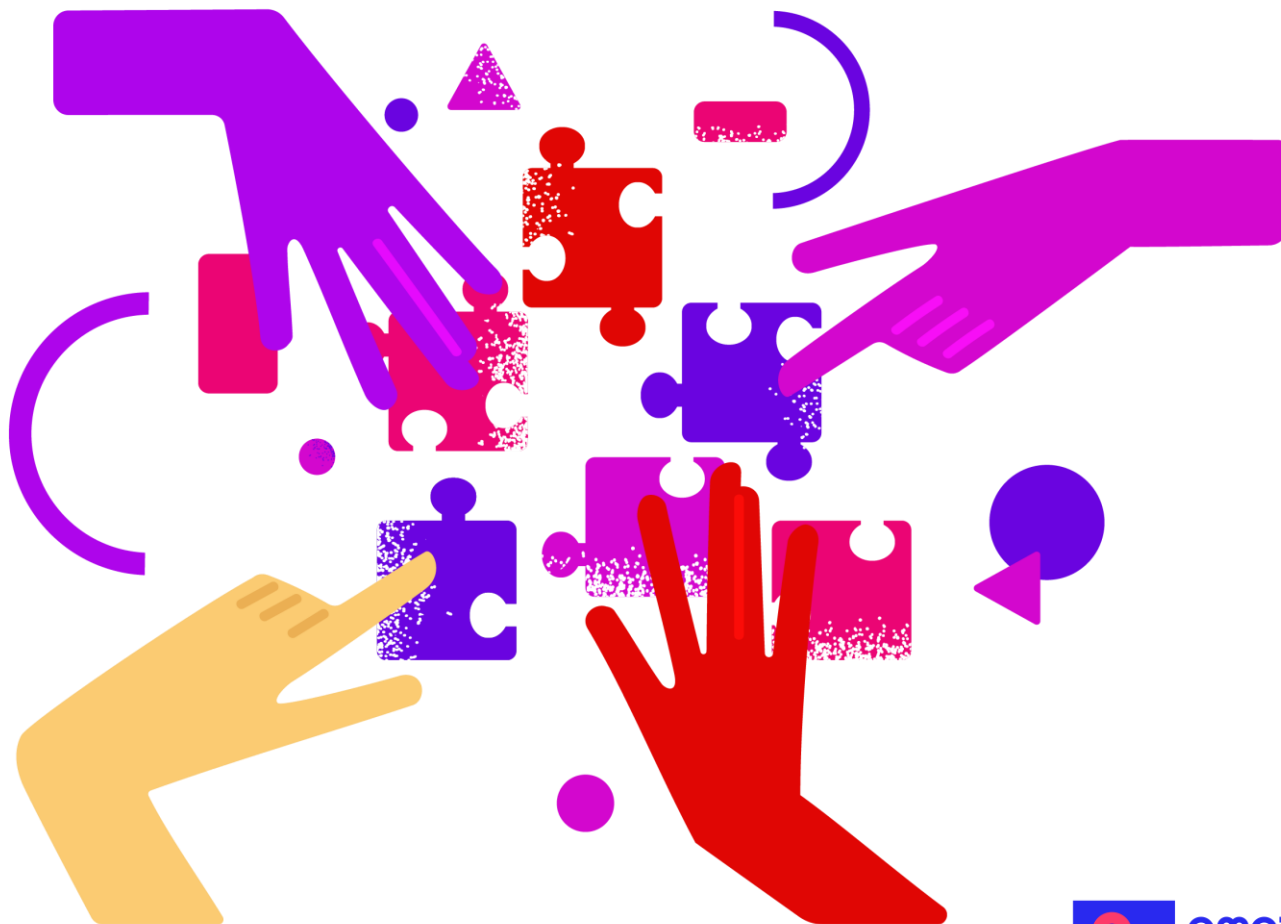- Provide frequent opportunities for review and practice.

Teaching Strategies

- Use of Technology:

- Integrate educational apps and software tailored to individual needs.

- Explore assistive technology and communication devices.

- Monitor screen time to balance with other activities.

- Collaboration with Support Staff:

- Coordinate with speech therapists, occupational therapists, and other specialists.

- Implement recommended strategies and interventions.

- Ensure consistency between classroom and therapy sessions.

Teaching Strategies

- Positive Reinforcement:

- Use a system of positive reinforcement to motivate and reward desired behaviors.

- Provide specific, immediate feedback.

- Celebrate small successes and milestones.

- Flexible Assessment Methods:

- Adapt assessments to accommodate diverse learning profiles.

- Allow for alternative forms of assessment, such as portfolios or verbal presentations.

- Ensure assessment criteria are clear and accessible.

Thank you!

Website under construction

email@kmop.org