

HOT Evidence

Interventions to Support Participation for Autistic Children at School

Why This Matters

- ▶ Participation at school is vital for all children to develop skills and learn.
- ▶ Occupational therapy practitioners support autistic children at school to increase classroom engagement and social participation.

Note: Identity-first language (e.g., "autistic children") is used in this resource, as it is favored by many autistic communities and self-advocates. Practitioners should collaborate with clients and families and use language that is reflective of their preferences.

Improving Outcomes at School Evidence-Based Interventions

School Routines

Embed interventions into the classroom



Collaborate to set goals and make plans



Explicitly teach classroom routines



Use customized visual supports (e.g., videos, social stories)

Social Participation

Coach paraprofessionals to provide support to students on the playground



Share information about social participation



Coach on how and when to fade support prompts



Provide active coaching to paraprofessional and educate on how to coach student

Find the Evidence:

[Visit AJOT Volume 77, Issue Supplement 1 to review the Systematic Review Briefs on this topic](#)