

Autism Workshop Reflection

On October 27, 2010, I attended a workshop on Autism. I gained knowledge about Autism and how it affects students' learning. I am now more aware of Autism and how to respond to this learning challenge. I have always known that each student learns differently, but after this workshop, I have a better knowledge on how to help a student with Autism in my classroom. I learned that these students need a schedule in order to remain in control of their own learning and in order to be successful. They follow this schedule rather closely both at home and at school. Some students even need a schedule for basic reminders and step-by-step directions, such as remembering to eat breakfast, brush their teeth, then get to the bus stop in time. Other students just need an outline of what their day will look like and what the goal is for the day for the class they are going to. During the parent panel, one parent mentioned that her student also benefits from the teacher warning the student ahead of time if there is a major change in the schedule coming up, such as the teacher having a substitute or having an assembly at the end of the day. Besides having a schedule, a student with Autism also needs straight forward and clear directions, and may also benefit from having written directions instead of just having verbal directions. Anything these students can see and use as a reference for checking off tasks throughout the day helps them stay organized. Because of this workshop, I can now help students with the learning challenge of Autism succeed in my classroom.