

# SEND Autism Education Terms

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Term	Definition
aided language display	A visual representation of language that can be used to support communication. It often includes symbols and words to help individuals express themselves.
Attention Autism	An intervention designed to develop natural and spontaneous communication through the use of visually based and highly motivating activities.
co-occurring differences	When an individual exhibits traits or symptoms of more than one condition or disorder simultaneously.
core board	A communication tool consisting of frequently used words or symbols that can be pointed to for quick communication.
critical communication board	A form of AAC (Augmentative and Alternative Communication) that provides essential personalized words or phrases for critical or emergency situations.
dysregulation	Difficulty in controlling or regulating emotional responses or behaviors in accordance with the demands of the situation.
echolalia	The repetition or mirroring of verbal utterances made by another person, often seen in individuals with autism.
engagement model	A framework for understanding and supporting the engagement of learners with complex learning difficulties.
Gestalt language processor	An individual who perceives language in 'chunks' or patterns and often learns scripted phrases and sentences before breaking them down into smaller parts.

intensive interaction	A communication approach to teach the pre-speech fundamentals of communication to individuals who do not find speaking or using words easy.
interception	A sensory process that involves sensing the internal conditions of the body, such as hunger, thirst, and the need for the toilet.
monotropism	A theory that suggests individuals with autism focus their attention narrowly on a small number of interests at a time.
parallel play	A stage of play where children play adjacent to each other but do not try to influence one another's behaviour.
PECS	Picture Exchange Communication System, a form of augmentative and alternative communication that uses pictures to teach communication skills.
sensory circuit	A structured sequence of physical activities designed to arouse or settle individuals into a state of readiness for learning.
sensory profile	An assessment that helps to understand how an individual perceives and responds to sensory information in the environment.
stimming	Self-stimulatory behaviour, which may include repetitive sounds, movements, or repetitive manipulation of objects, often used by individuals with autism to regulate sensory input.