



Learning Spaces

Woodlands ASD Resource Base is set up specifically to be a safe and autism friendly environment.

-The classrooms are structured for up to eight children to provide an organised and calm atmosphere. As there is a high adult to child ratio, it also allows for 5 staff members to have appropriate space as well.



-There are 2 classrooms; one is set up for KS1 and the other for KS2
The KS1 classroom has different 'areas' that the children work in, much like a nursery/reception class. Although each area is structured and marked clearly with dividers to ensure pathways to different areas are predictable and easy to follow.



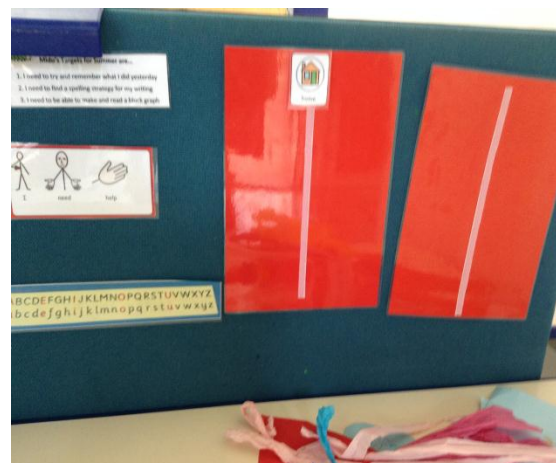
In the KS2 classroom, each child has their own desk with their photo, daily schedule, termly targets and anything else that child may need close by.



There is also a set of trays beside the desk for independent work. Each tray is numbered so that the student knows which order to do their activities in. Setting the work stations up in an organised and numbered manner allow the children to be independent and understand what they need to do. Many times, these things are individualised to each child and their ability levels.



- There is thought put into colouring of the walls and furniture in the classrooms. We tend to use light and calming colours (purples, greens, blues etc).
- Walls are kept bare to avoid distraction in the students 'learning environment'
- We use the hallways to display children's work as we still feel the work can be celebrated, just not within the classroom itself.
- Display boards that are in the class are aimed at the children, meaning that we use wording and photos that the children can understand. They are not overly complicated. Anything within the classroom is meant for their benefit
- Everything has its place. All items are in marked plastic bins to allow students to know where to find things and expect them to be. This helps keep the children calm as it is predictable and things stay separate and organised.





-Both classes have Interactive Whiteboards where the class teachers will do group lessons. The children seem to feel confident with technology and therefore we incorporate it daily to assist with attention abilities. Many of the children react well to songs and music, therefore the IWB is a great way to work learning into a fun activity.

-All doors in the classes have a 'double-handle'. This way, the adults can easily open and access doors but the children cannot. This keeps the children safe and inside the classroom. These handles are used on cupboards as well.





-We have a 'sensory room' within Woodlands which is used for various reasons.

For our children that are highly sensory seeking, it allows them a safe room to place that energy. For the children who are very sensitive to different stimuli, it allows for a place to be quite, calm with very soft music and lighting.

These sensory breaks can really impact the children's ability to concentrate in the classroom.

The Sensory Room can also be used as a safe place for children who are upset and can be physical or need somewhere to release frustrations and anger.





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-We have a safe, closed in playground that allows the children to play freely. These play breaks allow them time to avoid verbal instruction and give their brains a break. This also encourages higher concentration in the classroom. The playground is accessible for all children and also sensitive to colour choice and encourages physical activity.

