

# Communication Curriculum for Individuals on the Autism Spectrum

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Individuals on the autism spectrum characteristically have delays in communication and language development. Speech and language delays affect socialization, behavior, and learning and often impact all areas of daily living. Teaching communication requires educators to determine the individual needs of each student. Improving technology has also added a new dimension to developing communication, speech, and language. It is important to use curriculum and programs that are successful, and research based whenever possible.

Below is a listing of some examples of curriculum and programs that can be used to teach communication skills to individuals on the autism spectrum. In addition to these programs, please be aware that there are many other supplemental programs, books, strategies, and resources that are not included but are available. Many of these resources can be accessed by Indiana residents via the [Library at the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community](#). Inclusion on this list does not imply endorsement of any one program.

## Resource List

### **5-Minute Kids™**

- Grades: Pre-K to 12
- Description: Drill-based curriculum program for students with speech sound disorders. Developed by a speech language pathologist to minimize out-of-classroom time. Individual sessions are 5 to 7 minutes, 2 to 4 times per week.
- Vendor/Company: 5-Minute Kids™
- <http://5minutekids.com/>

### **Accessible Literacy Learning Reading Program (ALL)**

- Grades: Pre-K to 12+
- Description: Software specially designed to meet the needs of individuals with complex communication and physical access challenges. Also supports individuals who require augmentative and alternative communication (AAC). Uses Boardmaker® images.
- Vendor/Company: Boardmaker®
- <https://goboardmaker.com/>

### **ASD Pre-Speaking Program**

- Grades: Pre-K to K+
- Description: This program uses activities that require no speech to teach a range of cognitive and linguistic skills to children with ASD who are unable to speak. The program focuses on attention to directions and visual information. Follows up with additional programs, such as ASD Pre-Speaking and ASD Reading.
- Vendor/Company: ASD Reading
- <https://www.asdreading.com/>

### **ASD Unlocking Language**

- Grades: Pre-K to K+
- Description: Teaches language and communication to children with autism spectrum disorders. Develops understanding about time and context with language.
- Vendor/Company: ASD Reading
- <https://www.asdreading.com/>

### **Boardmaker® Software**

- Grades: Pre-K to 12+
- Description: Software that is designed to create materials using visual supports combined with language. Symbols can be used to improve reading comprehension and communication.
- Vendor/Company: Boardmaker®
- <https://goboardmaker.com/>

### **The Cartoon and Script Curriculum for Teaching Social Behavior and Communication**

- Grades: K to 12
- Description: This curriculum uses Visual Strategies. The skills are presented in the form of cartoons, scripts, and roll play to address a range of developmental levels. The curriculum breaks down complex behaviors into manageable steps. The lessons promote generalization of skills across settings and people.
- Vendor/Company: AAPC Publishing
- <https://aapcautismbooks.com/>

### **Conversations Framework**

- Grades: 6 to 12+
- Description: A standards-based social communication intervention. It incorporates conversation moves and foundational skills. The curriculum includes strategies for fluent speakers and AAC users. It also provides a progress monitoring system and a cd with PDFs of all forms and rubrics.
- Vendor/Company: Attainment Company
- <https://www.attainmentcompany.com>

### **Do-Watch-Listen-Say**

- Grades: K to 12+
- Description: Research-based techniques and an assessment tool are included in this intervention guide. Activities included can be easily adapted to develop a curriculum. Practical and user-friendly.
- Vendor/Company: Brookes Publishing Company
- <https://www.brookespublishing.com/>
- <http://autisminstitute.net/>

### **Early Literacy Skills Builder™ (ELSB) & Early Reading Skills Builder™ (ERSB)**

- Grades: K to 4
- Description: \*For Moderate to Severe Developmental Disabilities
- **ELSB** incorporates systematic instruction to teach both print and phonemic awareness. Multi-year program with ongoing assessments so individuals progress at their own pace.
- **ERSB** continues to progress students from early literacy to a second grade reading level. Skills addressed include phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, comprehension, and fluency. Both programs incorporate scripted lessons, teachable objectives, built-in lesson repetition, and ongoing assessments for one-on-one or in small groups. For additional communication curriculum, visit the vendor's website.

- Vendor/Company: Attainment Company
- <https://www.attainmentcompany.com>

### **Enhancing Communication for Individuals with Autism: A Guide to the Visual Immersion System™**

- Grades: Pre-K to 12+
- Description: Based on the Visual Immersion System™ framework. This book helps customize a system of visuals. Gives how-to support on selecting tools and materials, conducting systematic instruction, collecting data, and assessing how well interventions are working. Focuses on increasing communicative skills including protests, organization and transitions, requesting, directives, commenting, questions, and social pragmatics.
- Vendor/Company: Brooks Publishing Company
- <https://products.brookespublishing.com/>

### **Kaufman Speech Praxis Kit: Apraxia Therapy Materials Treatment Kit 1 (K-SLP)**

- Grades: Pre-K to K+
- Description: Systematic treatment program that trains children to simplify word pronunciation patterns, making it easier for them to communicate. Developed for apraxia, not oral-motor weakness, or dysarthria. Contains 200 pictures of nouns and verbs ordered from simple to complex, with consonants p, b, m, t, d, n, and h.
- Vendor/Company: Pro Ed., Inc.
- <https://www.proedinc.com/>

### **Language Builder: Academic Readiness Intervention System (ARIS)**

- Grades: Pre-K to 6
- Description: Program is designed to meet the needs of students with moderate to severe Autism Spectrum Disorder. ARIS is anchored in the principles of applied behavior analysis. The lessons follow a standards-based learning progression created by correlating to common core state standards, Head Start, ABLLS, and VB-MAPP. Includes detailed lesson plans, teaching materials, data systems, and assessment questionnaires.
- Vendor/Company: STAGES Learning
- <https://stageslearning.com>

### **LIPS: The Lindamood Phoneme Sequencing® Program for Reading, Spelling, and Speech**

- Grades: Pre-K to 12+
- Description: This comprehensive multisensory program uses explicit, systematic instruction to develop phonological awareness, decoding, spelling, and reading skills. Includes 1:1, small group, or whole group instruction. Can be used collaboratively with speech-language pathologists and educators.
- Vendor/Company: Lindamood-Bell® Learning Processes
- <https://www.lindamoodbell.com/>

### **PECS™**

- Grades: Pre-K to 12+
- Description: An evidence-based practice that is designed to teach individuals to communicate socially. Teaches to physically exchange visuals, expand spontaneous interactions, discriminate pictures, build language and sentence structure, and respond.
- Vendor/Company: PECS™
- <https://www.pecsusa.com/>

### **STAR® Autism Support**

- Grades: K to 12+
- Description: Programs that are designed specifically for individuals with ASD and developmental delays. Uses ABA (applied behavior analysis) instructional methods of discrete trial training and pivotal response to teach functional routines. Includes detailed lesson plans, teaching materials, data systems, and a curriculum-based assessment.
- **Sunshine Literacy Kit**<sup>®</sup> Grades: K to Early Elementary
  - Kits use premade activities that are fun and motivational to teach social skills, such as joint attention, attending to a structured activity, and socializing in a group. Lessons focus on literacy and offer opportunity to practice and generalize skills learned in direct instruction sessions. Includes language, letters, sight words, and comprehension.
- **FACTER**<sup>®</sup> and **Links**<sup>®</sup> Grades: 5 to 12+
  - Teach everyday routines and skills for daily living. Promote independence in natural environment.
- Vendor/Company: STAR<sup>®</sup> Autism Support
- <https://starautismsupport.com>

### **Super Duper**<sup>®</sup> **Publications**

- Grades: Pre-K+
- Description: Super Duper provides a wide range of photo cards, fun decks, and activities that support communication, language, and social skills curriculum.
- Vendor/Company: Super Duper<sup>®</sup>
- <https://www.superduperinc.com/>

### **Talk with Me**

- Grades: K to 12
- Description: This framework breaks down the elements of conversation for students with high-functioning Autism to teach them to become more proficient at carrying out conversations. This program includes assessments, data collection, visual supports, drills, and prompt examples.
- Vendor/Company: AAPC Publishing
- <https://aapcautismbooks.com/>

### **Teach Me Language**

- Grades: 1 to 12+
- Description: Program is designed to be used by parents or therapists as part of a therapy program to teach social language skills. Requires visual learning skills and the ability to follow simple directions
- Vendor/Company: Different Learning
- <https://www.difflearn.com>

### **Teaching Communication Skills: Autism**

- Grades: Pre-K+
- Description: A comprehensive overview of methods and strategies for developing functional communication in children and adolescents with autism. Addresses the needs of nonverbal and beginning communicators. Printable resources included. Uses reinforcement preference sheets and symbol recognition assessments.
- Vendor/Company: Attainment Company
- <https://www.attainmentcompany.com>

### **TeachTown**<sup>®</sup>

- Grades: Pre-K to 3

- Description: Designed for children ages 2 to 7. Uses research and evidence-based practices, such as ABA (applied behavior analysis), to teach a wide range of meaningful skills, including literacy. Additional social skills activities are available.
- Vendor/Company: TeachTown®
- <https://web.teachtown.com>

### **Visualizing-Verbalizing® V/V®**

- Grades: K to 12
- Description: Helps struggling readers comprehend by creating mental imagery for language, otherwise known as image gestalt, for improved comprehension and expression of oral and written language and critical thinking skills.
- Vendor/Company: Lindamood-Bell® Learning Processes
- <https://www.lindamoodbell.com>