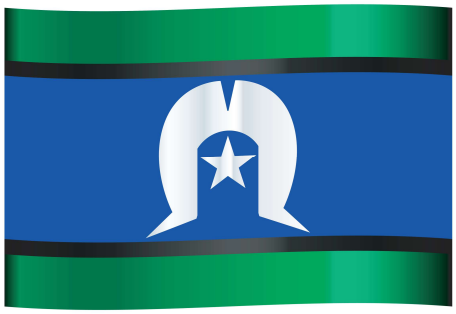


1

Acknowledgement of Country





2

First Nations people are advised that this workshop may contain images and voices of people who are no longer with us.

3

Meet the presenters

Positive Partnerships

Jennifer Winstone – Sector Lead



Sylvia Rodger Institute

Nicole Torres – Education Project Manager



4

Session intentions

Today we'll explore how to...

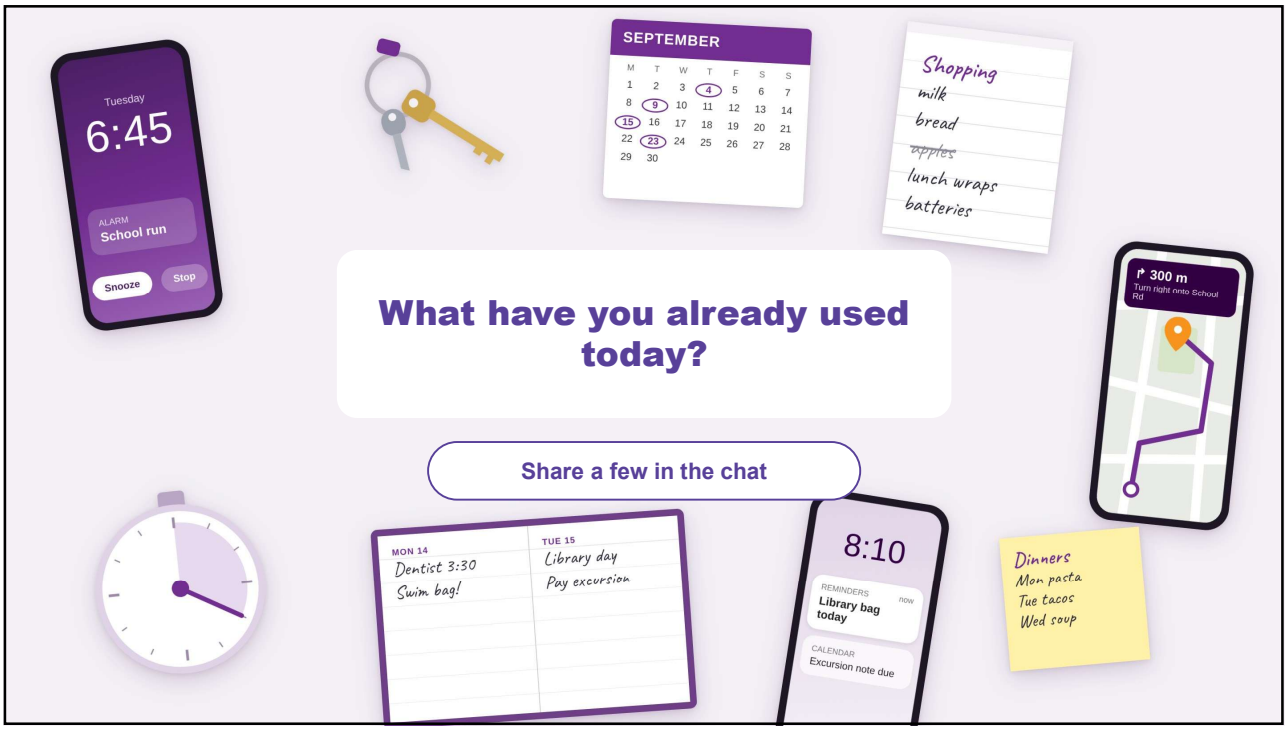
NOTICE
some of the executive function demands hidden inside everyday tasks

CONSIDER
how the person, task and environment can make things easier or harder

TRY
practical ways of making information easier to see, return to and use

Across home and school, using practical examples you can adapt.

5



6

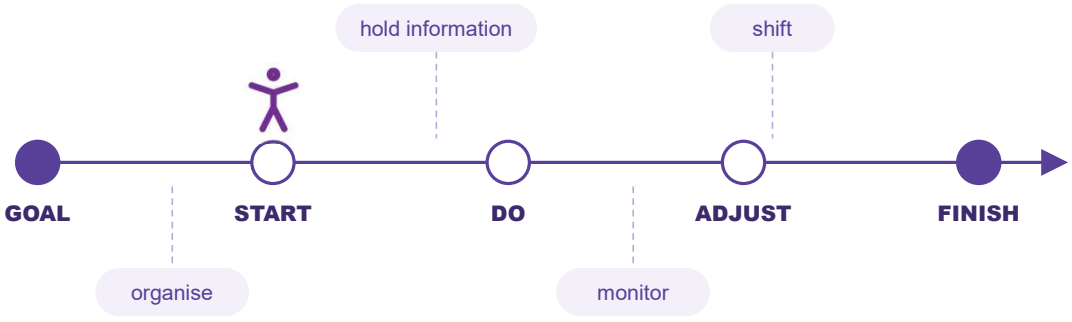
We don’t call these executive function supports.

They help us plan, organise and scaffold.

Risko and Gilbert, 2016

7

What does executive function help us do?



Diamond, 2013 · Demetriou et al., 2018; Toplak et al., 2013; Kofler et al., 2024

8

CAN doesn't always mean
CAN RIGHT NOW

"They could do it yesterday."

"They know how to do it."



Kenny et al., 2024 · Toplak et al., 2013

9

What else might be making this harder right now?



10

What else might be going on?



A CALM MORNING



A BUSY MORNING

- Rested
- Clothes ready
- Usual routine
- Running late
- Noisy house
- Excursion day
- Shoes missing

Same child. Different morning. Different demands.

Shields et al., 2016 · Raymaker et al., 2020

11



Sweller et al., 2019

12

Hidden demands in another everyday activity



13

Don’t rely on executive function
to support executive function.

How might we support?

Hume et al., 2021; Knight et al., 2015 · Risko and Gilbert, 2016

14

Ways we can support

There are many ways to reduce the load and make everyday tasks easier to access.

- Visual supports
- Clear language
- Processing time
- Breaking tasks down
- Preparing for transitions and change
- Adjusting the environment
- Starting together

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Visual supports

Make useful information available to see and return to.

HOME



SCHOOL



Hume et al., 2021 · Risko and Gilbert, 2016

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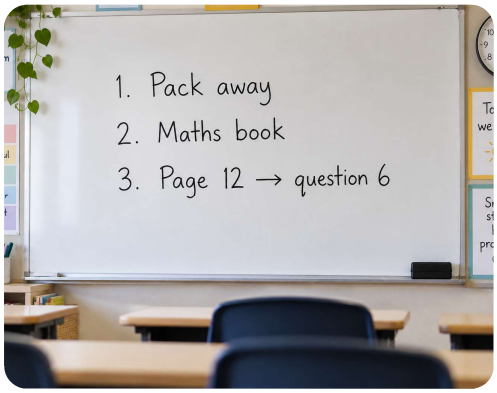
Clear language

Make the important information easy to find.

INSTEAD OF

"Pack everything away, grab your maths book, turn to page 12 and we will start question six."

TRY



Kenny et al., 2024

17



Processing time

Give information time to land before adding more.

18

Kristian and Lisa on executive functioning



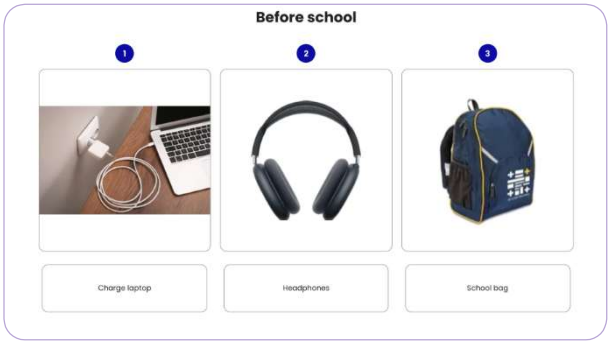
Video: Amaze

19

Breaking tasks down

Make the next step easier to find.

"Get ready for school"



Hume et al., 2021

20

Preparing for transitions and change

Make what's next, and what's changing, easier to anticipate.

HOME



Swimming's off: the new plan

SCHOOL



Relief teacher: what stays the same

Lage et al., 2024; Jenkinson et al., 2020 · Kenworthy et al., 2014 · Murray et al., 2005

21



Adjusting the environment

Sometimes the task isn't the only thing asking something of us.

- **Less competing noise or information**
- **Materials ready and easy to find**
- **A different place or time for the task**

22



Starting together

Sometimes another person
can help carry part of the load.

23

Is independence doing it all alone?

Have a think, or share in the chat

One support you use that nobody expects you to grow out of

Kenny et al., 2024 · Pellicano and den Houting, 2022 · Melby-Lervåg et al., 2016

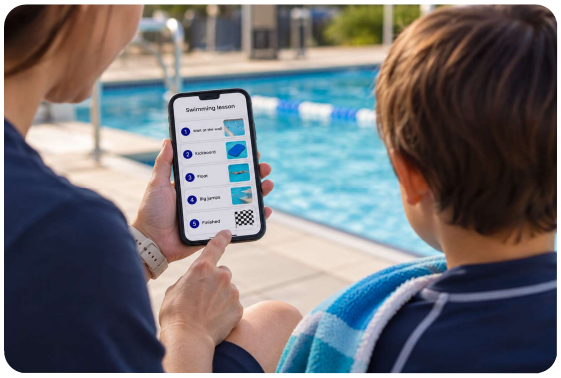
24

A support can only help if it's available when it's needed.

ON THE FRIDGE



AT SWIMMING



25

What if we asked a different question?

INSTEAD OF
"Why won't they start?"

What would make starting easier?

INSTEAD OF
"Why can't they remember?"

Where could the information live?

INSTEAD OF
"They need to cope with change."

What would make the change make sense?

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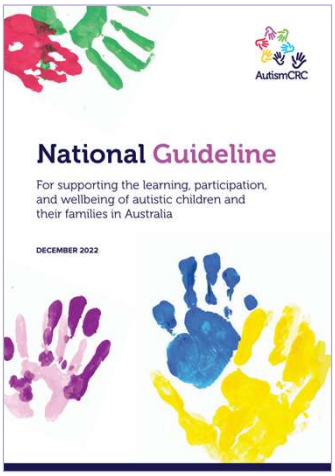
We all rely on supports every day.

What's one thing you could make easier tomorrow?

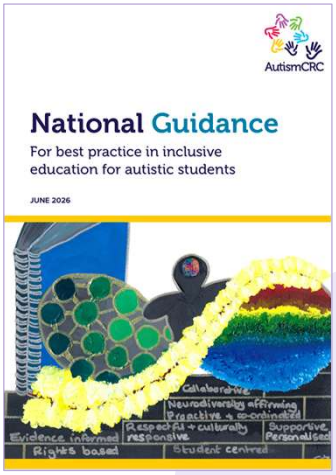
Have a think

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National Guidance



National Guideline, Autism CRC, 2022

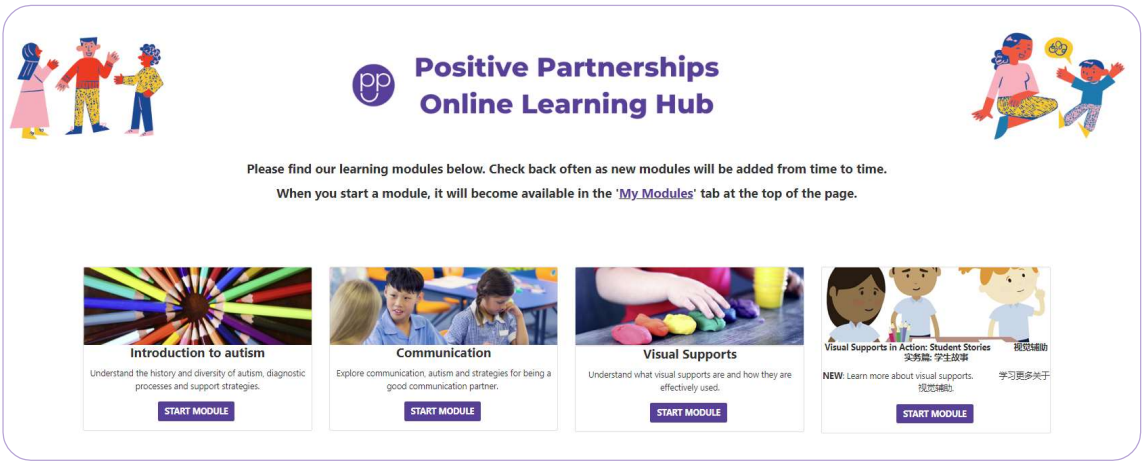


National Guidance for inclusive education, Autism CRC, 2026

28

Resources

Positive Partnerships Online Learning Hub: free learning modules, including Visual Supports.



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Stay connected



positivepartnerships.com.au

LinkedIn: positive partnerships

Instagram: @positivepartnerships

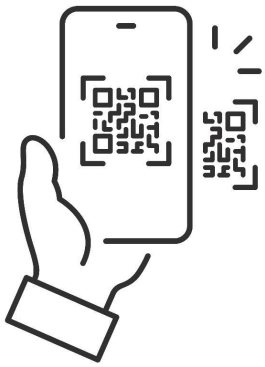
Threads: @PositivePartnerships

pinterest.com.au/PositivePartnershipsAustralia

facebook.com/PositivePartnershipsAU

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Feedback and questions



Scan the QR code, or use the feedback link in the chat.

Anonymous, and it takes about two minutes.

The chat stays open for five minutes to share ideas and resources

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