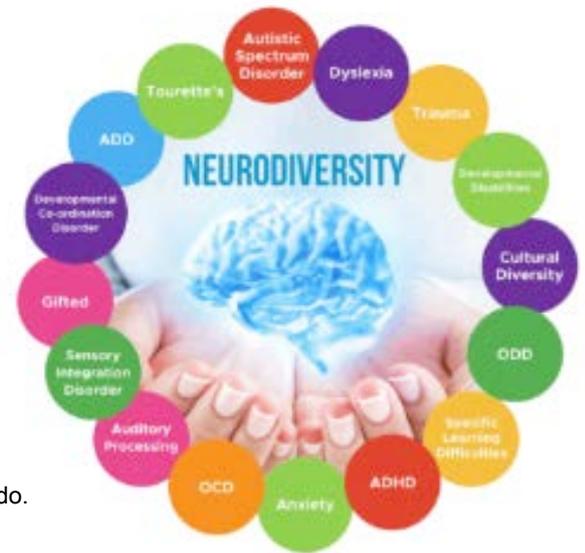


10 ESSENTIAL TIPS FOR UNDERSTANDING NEURODIVERSITY (AS, ADHD, ODD, PDA)



1. Neurodiverse students don't need to make eye contact when listening
 - ✓ Reason: They often find looking and listening at the same time hard to do.
2. Give neurodiverse students time to answer any of your questions.
 - ✓ Reason: They have slower processing time. Sometimes it can take them up to a minute to formulate the answer
3. If neurodiverse students feel pressured they may answer with stock standard answers.
 - ✓ Reason: Students know it will get them out of trouble quickly. This may include: "I don't know", "yes", "maybe" and often this isn't their true answer!
4. Students struggle when homework for teacher 'x' is in the yellow basket but for teacher 'y' it's to be placed in the green basket
 - ✓ Reason: Neurodiverse students don't "generalise" information between people and places.
5. Neurodiverse students find organisation of their school equipment very difficult.
 - ✓ Tip: They are best with one folder with everything inside. Limit the number of pencils, pens etc.
6. Neurodiverse students find choices overwhelming and are often concerned with making the wrong choice
 - ✓ Reason: Neurodiverse students often have difficulty with problem solving
 - ✓ Tip: Limit their choices and be very specific with chores
7. Be as clear, concise and concrete as possible.
 - ✓ Reason: Neurodiverse students have difficulty with abstract thinking.
8. Avoid verbal overload.
 - ✓ Reason: Neurodiverse students are visual learners and verbal information takes them longer to process and retain.
9. Neurodiverse students often misinterpret your questions/comments . ie Could/Would? Can can be interpreted as an option. Words like "Stop" and "No" don't tell them what to do.
 - ✓ Reason: Neurodiverse students are often literal
10. Neurodiverse students often have sensory processing difficulties
 - ✓ Reason: This is part of their diversity and different way of processing.

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