



# QUICK RESULTS IN SECONDARY SCHOOL

## 6 Key Strategies

In my experience one of the biggest challenges for staff and students is **the number of staff involved with the student compared to primary school**. Staff should endeavour to share what works and problem solve with the whole team. Reinforcement across all settings will build competence faster and will result in more success for staff and students.

**1 Think of each student as an individual.** Support the age appropriate interests\* and raise expectations towards independence and peer level behaviour as much as possible. (See book pages 5 and 6).

**2 Help the student build skills and independence.** Nominate the behaviours/skills working on each week. Building competencies requires patience, setting priorities and establishing small goals to reach the desired outcome. (See book pages 14 and 16).

**3 Understand where the student is at and problem solve what is impeding his progress.** Then develop the teachable, scaffolding steps that will help him move forward. (See book pages 26, 39, 40 and 68)

**4 Motivate to Success.** Know what motivates a particular student. Knowing that this may be different to other typically developing students. Use this interest to focus attention on less interesting or non-preferred activities. (See book page 73)





**5 Effort Expected = Reward Offered.** Ensure that the reward is substantial enough for the student to want to extend their effort. As a student becomes more familiar and more competent with new skills, his confidence, interest and motivation will increase and the need for rewards will decrease. Unfortunately for many of these students we need to use substantial rewards to engage them, as unlike their peers, intrinsic rewards are often irrelevant. (See book page 73)

**6 Small Steps of Success = Big Steps Forward.** Shape behaviour by making small changes at a time and utilise reinforcement strategies, social (praise) as well as concrete (favourite activity). The reinforcement needs to have more value than the behaviour..(See book page 95)



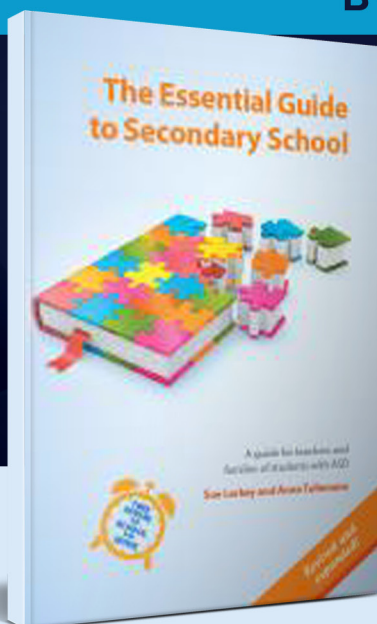
**\*Age Appropriate Interests:** Sometimes you need to replace earlier interests with new interests which can help build relationships with peers. Moving from Lego, to Minecraft, to computer games. Students need to be able to talk about the same topics as their peers. This is especially important in a mainstream classroom. The broadening of interests will encourage greater participation with others.



*All New Revised and Expanded Version*

## THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO SECONDARY SCHOOL:

BY SUE LARKEY AND ANNA TULLEMANS



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