

Use of 'office' desk or screens



Why use an 'office' desk or screen areas?

- Sometimes called a workstation this area provides a focussed working space. Children on the autism spectrum can find it difficult to concentrate and focus because the classroom environment can overload their senses. Using a screen can block out noise, movement or light and provide an area to work in which minimises distractions.

How to use

- Set up an area which faces a wall or screen and is away from main through routes across the classroom.
- This area can be used for settling the child into the school day. The day's timetable can be outlined so the child knows exactly what is going to happen next. The timetable can be displayed here and move with the child or kept here permanently so they can go back and refer to it.
- The area can also be used for quiet focussed individual working. Distractions are reduced by the use of the wall/ screen. Further portable screens could be used to the right of the space to block out further if needed.

Where next?

- If the child has learned the skills to self regulate their emotions this area can be a space where the child can take themselves for time out to calm down or relax before integrating back into the main classroom.
- This area should not be used as part of sanctions where the teacher directs the child for time out as they may come to view the space negatively.