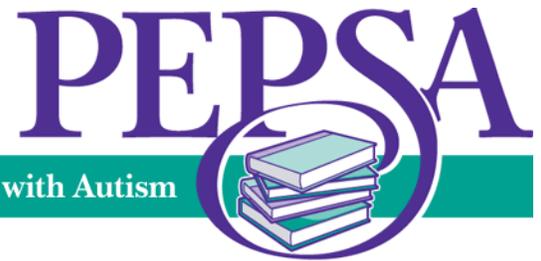




Florida Department of Education



Partnership for Effective Programs for Students with Autism

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## Enhancing Literacy – Teaching With Videos

Enhancing Literacy through Learning with Videos is designed to increase literacy for Middle School students with Autism Spectrum Disorder. The use of high-interest content in a visual format is intended to enhance learning and encourage student engagement and interaction in the classroom. Additionally, students are involved by selecting some of the materials so that content is relevant and meaningful to them.

Research shows that the majority of individuals on the autism spectrum are visual learners and understand what they see, rather than what they hear. Learning with videos is a strategy that effectively establishes attention, promotes content understanding, and reinforces learning through being able to repeat and review the visual materials, as often as necessary, for retention.

The videos have been created via Animoto which allows the import of pictures, video, text and music, giving the capability of creating videos that can be individualized and specialized for the learner's interests. Videos can also be remixed and edited, so that they can be stored and "recreated" at a future date, tailoring and refining as needed. Videos have the unique feature of "pause" and "rewind", allowing ample time for questions and instruction that is given to meet the students' levels and individual learning goals.

Student engagement and participation has been 100% during learning sessions using the video format. Often, students are reluctant to relinquish their turn, and learning sessions that had typically been 15-20 minutes, have increased to sessions that are sometimes 45-60 minutes duration. Students are active during the process, coming to the screen and pointing out features. Based on their skill level, they may name, label, identify, count, or read. Students at their desks, use white boards and/or Clearboard Communicators with dry erase markers for writing. In a learning session, they typically meet standards in all core academic areas.

In addition to this teacher creating additional videos for her class, future projects include teaching students additional skills to master creating individual videos with support, or independently. Animoto has free educational accounts for teachers, and students can log on as well. This project has long-term potential for literacy enhancement, and meets the needs of varied learners.