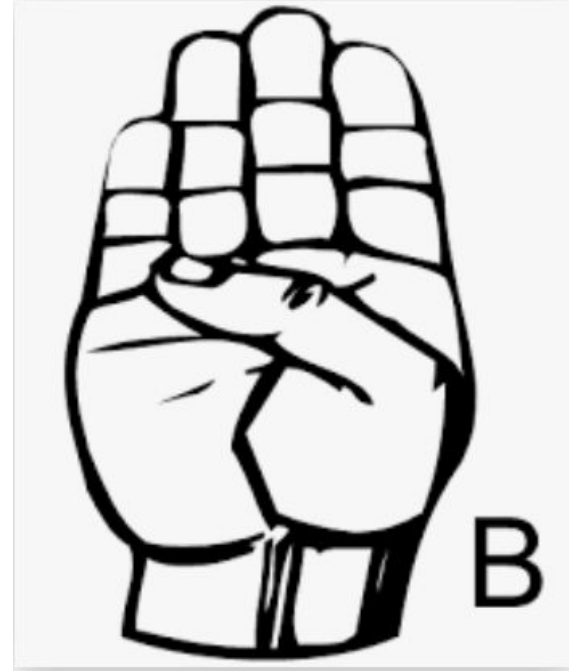


FLIPPING THE SCRIPT

PRIORITIZING THE AUTISTIC VOICE IN THE UNDERSTANDING OF
SCRIPTING

Dr. Colleen D. Arnold, 2020

KNOWING OUR AUDIENCE: A) PARENT, B) PROFESSIONAL



CURIOSITY PEAKED



AGENDA

Lens of the Research

Defining Scripting

Previous Literature

Methods and Research Questions

Results: Benefits and Barriers of Scripting

Strategies to Improve Communication with Autistic People

Questions

LENS OF RESEARCH



Neurodiversity Model, Social View of Disability

- This includes the notion of autism as an integral part of one's' identity and as all pervasive part of existence (Brown, 2015).

- Thoughtful language choices

- Use of identity-first language

- Use of the term “scripting” versus delayed echolalia

Shift away from the deficit model

Society creates barriers and “othering” for people on the spectrum

Person
with
autism



Autistic
person



Neurology is not an accessory
www.identityfirstautistic.org



In 2015, a study conducted by *The National Autistic Society*, the *Royal College of GPs* and the *UCL Institute of Education* asked 502 autistic people their language preferences.

The term 'autistic' was endorsed by 61% of autistic people. In contrast, only 18% of autistic people preferred the term 'person with autism'.

source: www.autism.org.uk/about/what-is/describing.aspx

DEFINING SCRIPTING

“Delayed Echolalia”	“Scripting”
<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Term used primarily in research-Emphasis is on it as a behavior to be eradicated-Traditional research lacks autistic voices-Lack of understanding of the communication and self-regulation benefits it provides the individual	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Term used more often by the autistic community-Emphasized as linguistic communication tool- For some it is used as a synonym for delayed echolalia

KEY TERMS

☀ **Immediate Echolalia:** the repetition of words soon after they are heard

☀ **Delayed Echolalia:** the repetition of words heard at an early time
(hours, days or months may pass between the original spoken words and the echo)



Interactive echolalia
imitates the structure
of interactions

Echolalia

the repetition of spoken words



Neologism:
the use of an
existing word or
phrase in a new
way



Unmitigated Echolalia:
exact repetition of phrases



Mitigated Echolalia:
substitution of a word in a phrase

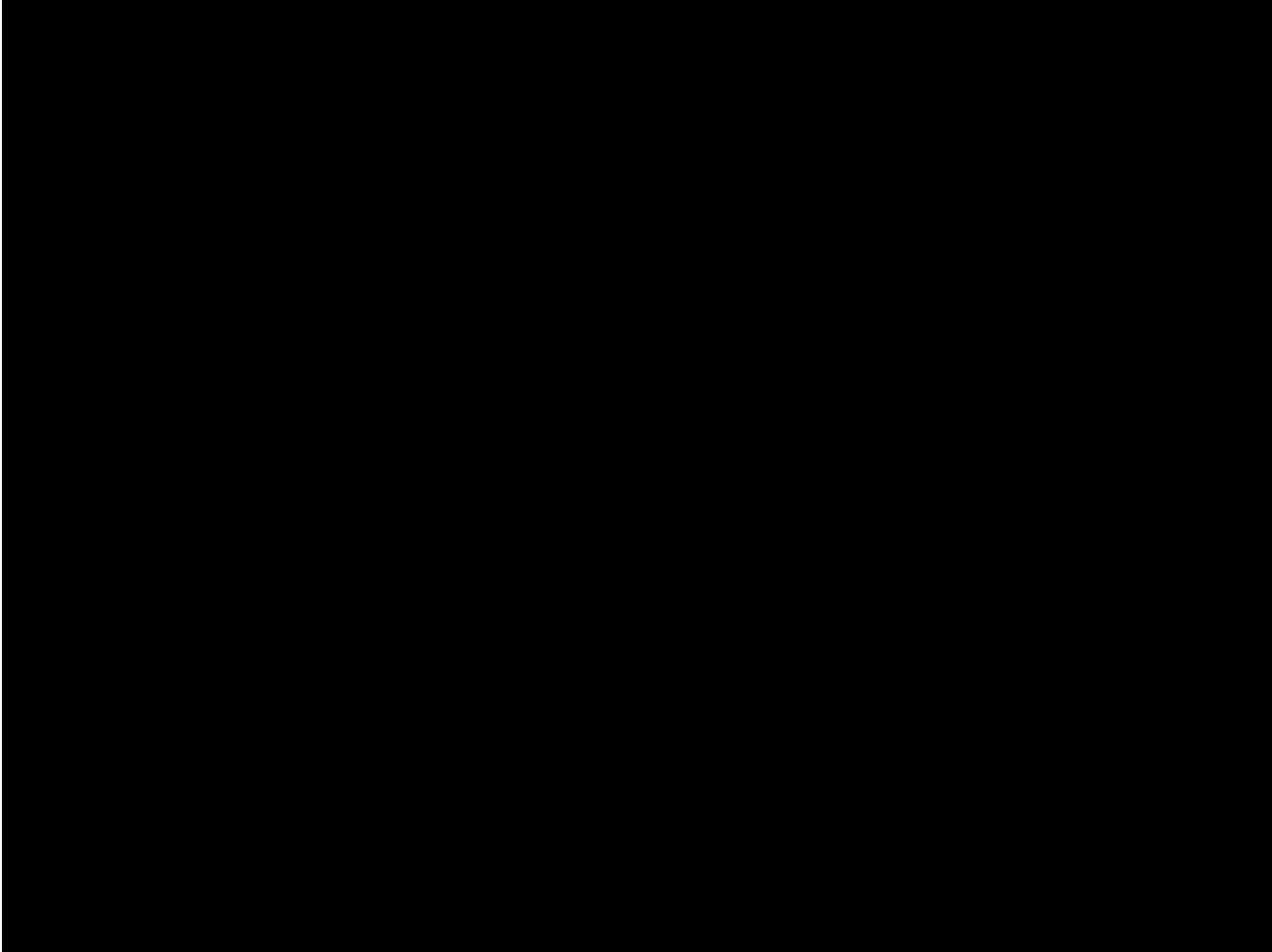


Non-interactive echolalia is
the use of words for:

- self-regulation
- self-direction
- rehearsal
- stimming

VIDEO

—



SCRIPTING AS COMMUNICATION

- A way to interact and to solicit play
- To express understanding, socialize, communicate a need
- To communicate a feeling
- To reduce the stress of a situation through humor
- Self-monitoring strategy/behavioral reminder
- To self-regulate, for calming or fun

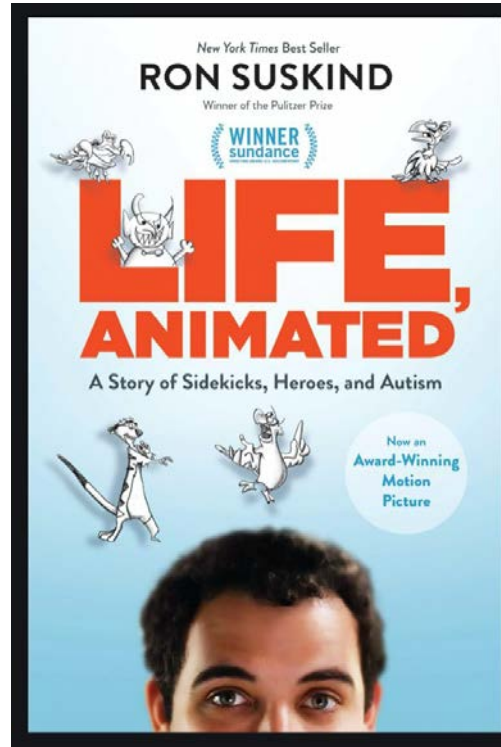
(Prizant & Rydell, 1984; Tarplee & Barrow, 1999; Prizant, 2015; Sterponi & Shankly, 2006; Wooton, 1999)

SCRIPTING CAN...

- Change over time (Mitigated Scripting)
- Be impacted by the listener
- Be used as neologisms, with private understandings
- Act as a strong emotional connection
- Can be animated, mimicking voice inflection and tone
- Be better understood by knowing the history, context, and sources of the script

(Sterponi and Shankey, 2013)

SCRIPTING AS COMMUNICATION HITS THE MAINSTREAM



DISNEY MOVIE ENTHUSIASM AS A LINK



- Due to Owen's fascination with Disney, some of the professionals suggested putting the TV under lock and key
- At the time, the majority of Owen's speech was taking the form of scripts based on various Disney films
- Began to see how Owen was using Disney to connect and understanding the complex world around him
- The family's approach changed and they began to utilize Disney as a way to learn about Owen and connect with him, including some creative role play with Iago from Aladdin

BRIANNON LEE

Blogger, Autistic Voice

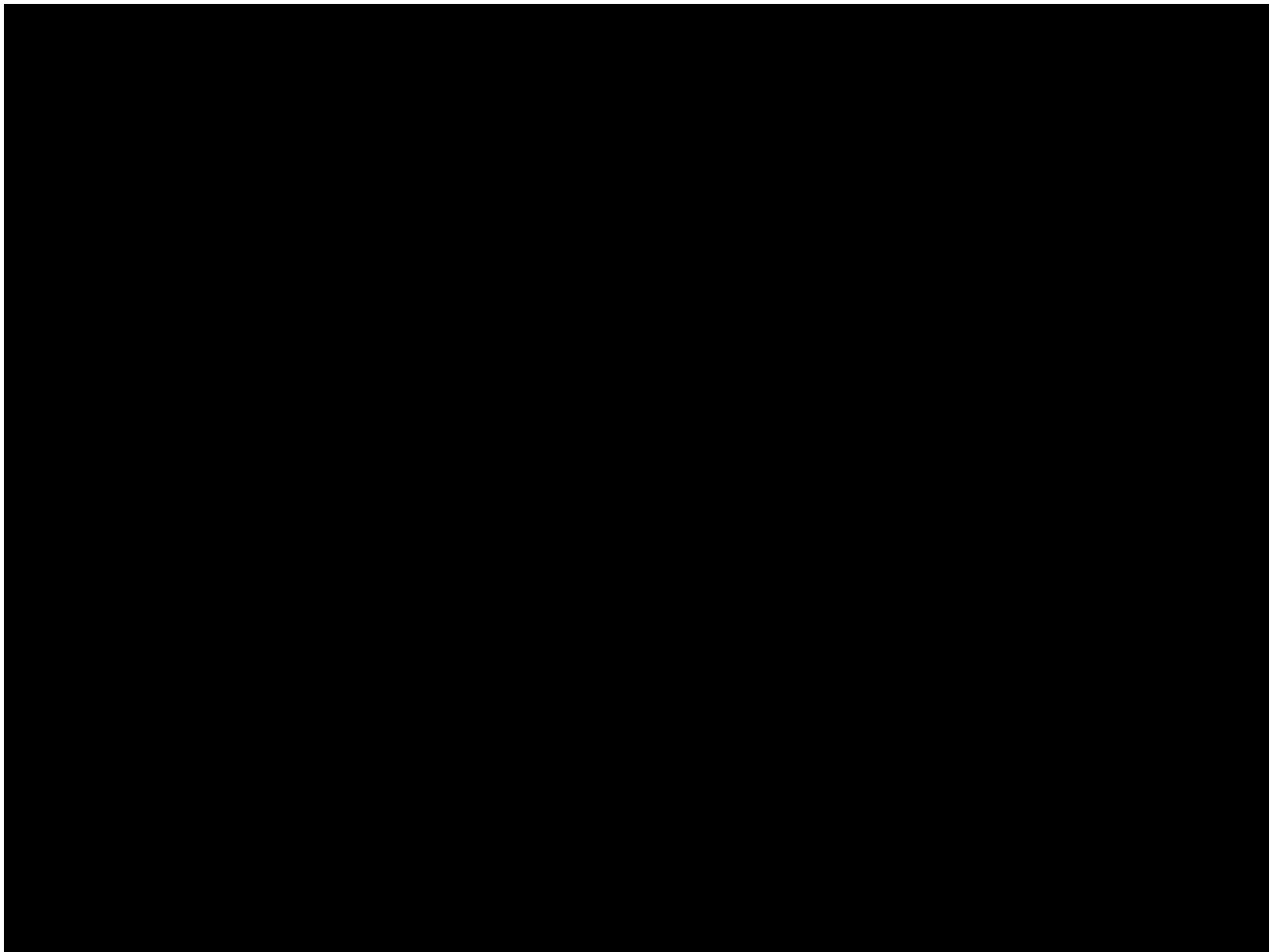


A great shift
happens when we
are open to exploring
our own sensory,
emotional, cognitive
and communication
needs.

Briannon Lee
www.respectfullyconnected.com

“Sharing our passions with people we love is how we show we care and how we connect with you” (pg. 1).

VIDEO



PURPOSE OF THE STUDY (ARNOLD, 2019)

- Frame the **autistic voice as the priority**.
- Utilize the autistic personal experiences and reflections upon the use of scripting to **frame general understanding**.
- Identify how *familiar listeners* impact the successful use scripting as a form of communication.
- Analyze what outside influences are placed on communication partners to react to scripting in a specific way, and what factors influence decisions to take a different approach.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- 1. What benefits does scripting provide, as described by autistic individuals that use scripting?
- 2. What are the communicative features of scripting as described/used by autistic individuals?
- 3. How do communication partners, specifically *familiar listeners*, influence the use of, and effectiveness of scripting as a form of communication? How does this contrast to other communication partners?

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

4. From the autistic perspective how can communication partners impact scripting, and what strategies and supports can be utilized by neurotypical individuals to improve communication and build meaningful relationships?
- 5. How does scripting evolve over time as described by autistic individuals and their familiar communication partners?
- 6. What outside influences and pressures impact the way *familiar listeners* react to scripting?

METHODS

- Qualitative Methods

- Online survey data on a national level of Autistic adults age 18 and older

- Pilot to assist in creating the survey questions and format with feedback from an autistic advocate

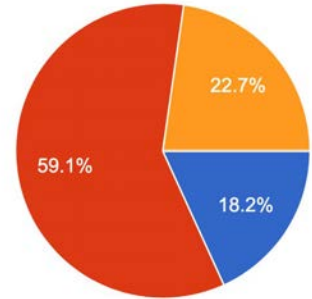
- Option for follow-up semi-structured interview (Part 2)

RESEARCH METHODS

- Coding: Invivo Coding (Saldana, 2016), Verbatim Principle
- Focused Coding
- Like groups, develop categories
- Maintained codes despite lack of frequency across participants
- Codebook
 - Constant Comparison, Dual coding as appropriate
- Reflective memos (Bogdan & Biklen, 2007)

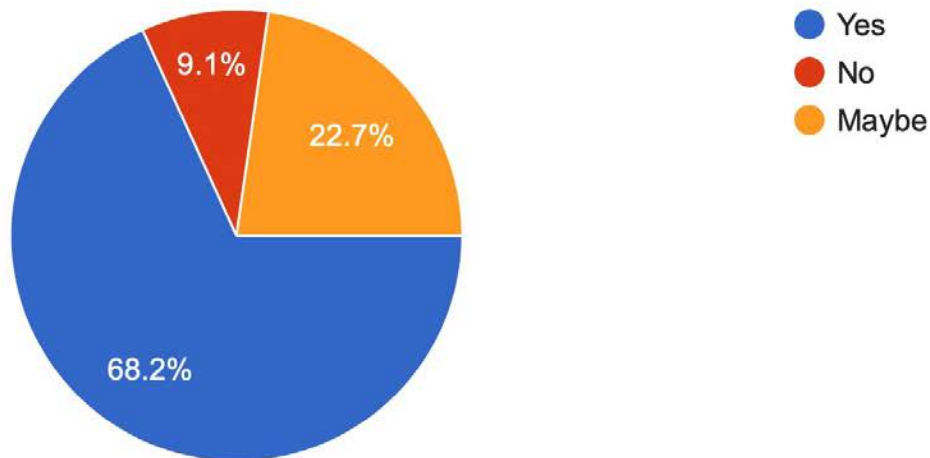
PARTICIPANTS

- Online survey was completed by 22 participants
- 22-65 years old, with concentration at 30 years and 51 years
- 59% female, 18% male, 22% gender non-conforming
- Recognition of Autism between ages 7-41
- Follow Up In Depth Interview (PART 2)
- 3 participants
- 2 Autistic participants from the original survey
- 1 father identified by a participant as a successful communication partner

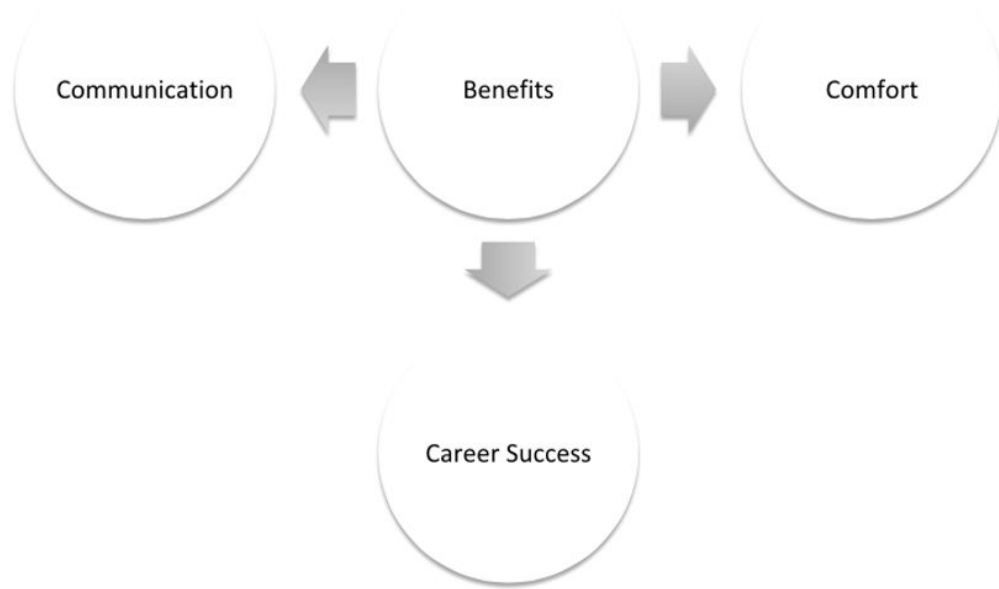


In this survey, we will be talking about scripting, which will be defined as using language that was gained from a previous source, like a TV show, book, movie, or language someone else used in the past. I am really interested in knowing if scripting is a part of the way that you communicate?

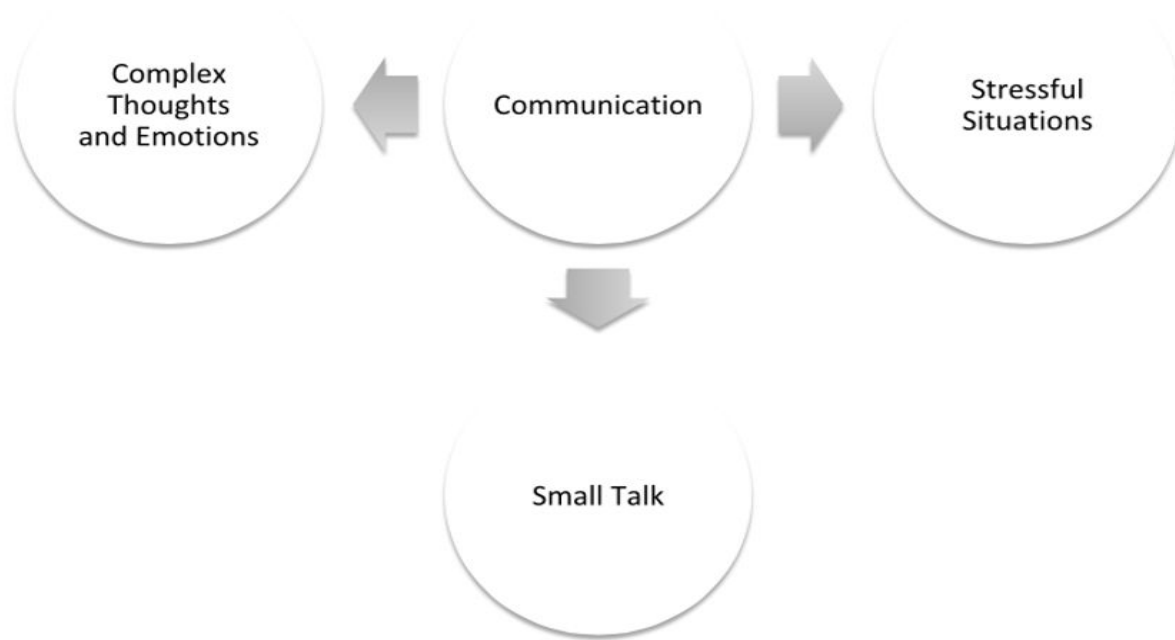
22 responses



RESULTS: BENEFITS



BENEFITS: COMMUNICATION



BENEFITS: COMMUNICATION

Autistic adults reported that scripting helps to:

1. Engage in small talk
2. Communicate complex thoughts
3. Communicate their emotions
4. It is beneficial when faced with stressful situations

...Shorter for communicating
a lot of things, emotions
that

BENEFITS: STRESSFUL SITUATIONS

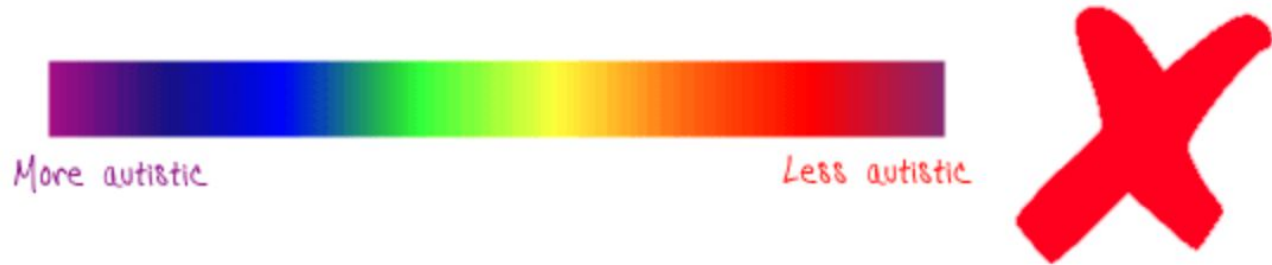
Stress can impact communication, and this was especially true for the study participants.

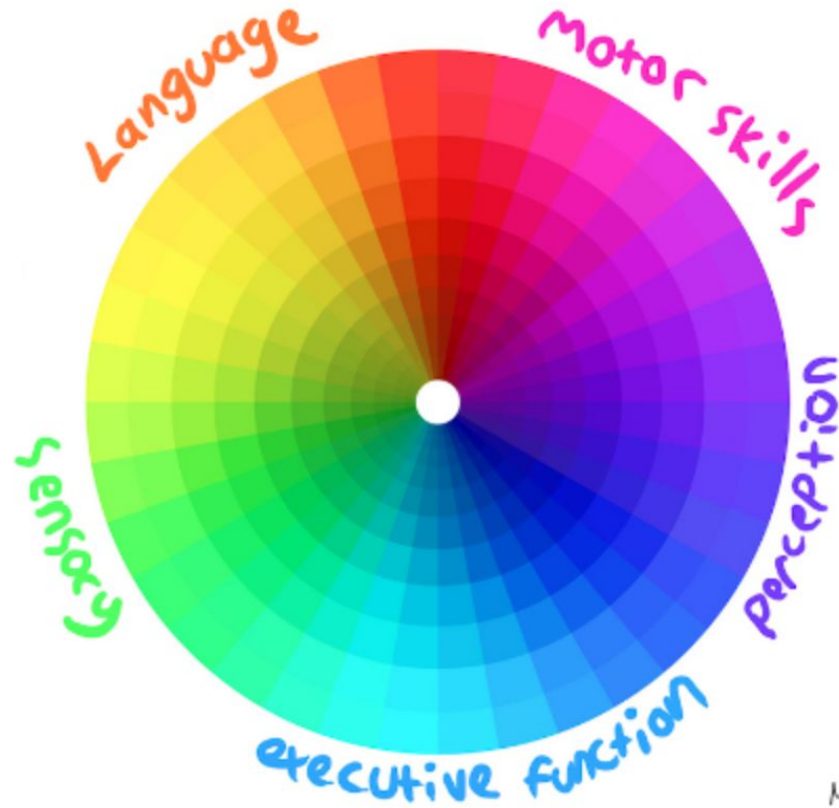
- Stress can lead to overstimulation and shut down, and scripting helps to avoid that
- Readily prepared scripts can decrease anxiety

Language is on a very flexible continuum, especially autistic adults

AUTISM AS A CONTINUUM

What does the autism spectrum look like?





Circular spectrum by
Rebecca Burgess
Montage @sciencebase

The autism spectrum is more than a simple scale from lower to higher functioning.

BENEFITS

Comfort:

Used for pleasure, both comforting and fun

Career Success:

32% of all participants described the positive impact scripting has in relation to their job success



BARRIERS: REFLECTING ON CHILDHOOD SCRIPTING

Isolation

Embarrassment

Negative Assumptions

- “Retarded” “Annoying” “Strange”
- Neurology of the Listener

BARRIERS WITH COMMUNICATION PARTNERS

- Over-reliance on scripting
- Being misinterpreted
- Pressure to fit in
 - Originally coded as a benefit, clearly has dangerous implications

FEATURES OF SCRIPTING (ARNOLD, 2019)

Mitigated Scripts

- More nuanced, adapt to experiences
- Metacognitive process

Neologisms

- Complicated social device
- Surface level understanding although intent has more depth
- Dual meanings for speaker and listener
- Understanding impacted by neurology

STRATEGIES AND SUPPORTS TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATION

Handout–

QUESTIONS





SENSITIVE SANTA SIPPING
Dec. 3rd, 2020 2-3pm

Capture the magic of a
sensory- friendly santa,
with your safety in mind!

- An Understanding Santa on his horse-drawn sleigh
- ◆ An inclusive event for children of all abilities and ages
- Siblings Welcome! It's a Family Affair!
- ◆ Exciting gifts for all!
- Several Professional Photo Opportunities based on comfort

Generously hosted by All Children Academics
www.allchildrenacademics.com

Event is FREE (\$20 donation goes includes
raffle entry)

Brought to you by Matrix Parent Network, Parents
Empowering Parents (PEP), & All Children Academics

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