

## PaTTAN AUTISM INITIATIVE

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During the 2023-2024 school year, BLaST IU 17 had two Autistic Support Classrooms pilot the PATTAN Autism Initiative. The Autism Initiative uses Applied Behavior Analysis Supports in a collaborative effort to expand the provision of effective science-based interventions for children with autism. This year, Mrs. Danielle Pardoe at J. Andrew Morrow Primary School in Towanda School District, and Mr. Chris Carithers at Central Elementary in South Williamsport School District participated in the initiative. The teachers and staff received monthly training and recommendations from PaTTAN consultants, and weekly support and feedback from our BLaST Autism Coach, Heather Sproule.

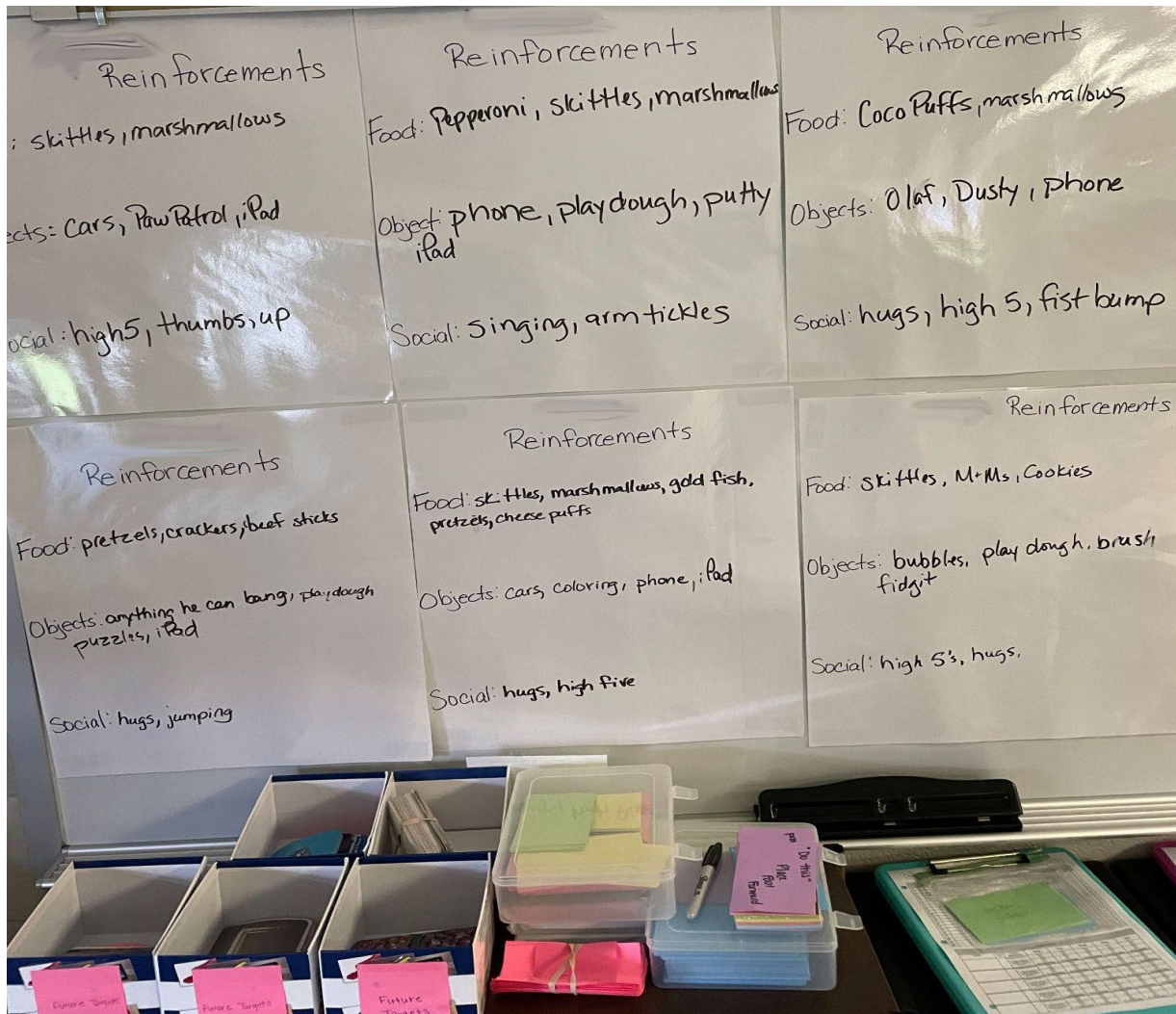
The teachers and their staff were supported through consultation, which helped students master their individual goals. Some skills taught through the Autism Initiative include manding (requests), tacting (labeling), motor imitation (copying one's movements), listener response (following directions), and echoic (repeating verbal sounds, words, or phrases). Along the way, each student follows a specific reinforcement schedule in which they are frequently positively rewarded using a variety of strategies. Some examples include small edible reinforcers, lights, bubbles, squeezes, funny noises, and clappers. By using errorless teaching methods, daily data collection, and meaningful reinforcement, students made progress in the areas of academics, communication, and demonstrating positive behavior.

The students participate in daily verbal behavior lessons which are tracked using specific data sheets called "cold probes" and "skills tracking sheets." Specific targets are identified based on each student's needs. Each student has their own cart and binder to organize all their data information and learning tools. This method helps staff stay organized during each one-on-one or small group verbal behavior session. (Please see pictures below).

During the 2023-2024 school year, we have observed students making significant progress! Mr. Carithers, Mrs. Pardoe, and their support staff now have a better understanding of applied behavior analysis and implement this within their daily instruction. The data shows students are learning many new skills each week, and have expanded their repertoire of mands, tacts, motor imitations, echoic skills, and listener responses. We appreciate the efforts and hard work of our internal coach, Heather

Sproule, who provided weekly coaching to these classrooms. Her support is attributed to the success of this piloted program.

We hope to continue to implement and grow the PaTTAN initiative during the 2024-2025 school year within our Autistic Support classrooms in both the North and South regions.



Students' preferred foods, objects, and social "reinforcers" are posted for all staff to see and deliver easily.





Each student is assigned a color as part of an organizational system. Their data binders, 3-tiered carts, and visual schedule pieces are all easily identifiable to students and staff from across the classroom.



Each morning, students are assessed using a “cold probe” data sheet, in which staff quickly monitor progress and record what students remembered from instruction the day prior. Specific skills being targeted are kept on clipboards on top of student carts to be error-lessly taught throughout the day.