

Group Work

Autistic students can find group work difficult as it can create challenges in addition to the course content. Combined with working through the academic material, the autistic student has to navigate the increased complexities and dynamics of the group. Group work can be more unstructured which can make it harder for students to fathom what is required of them. Division of work can be unfairly distributed with either the autistic students taking on too much or too little (Fabri, 2016). Increased sensory issues, as a result of more people talking, especially in increased proximity can heighten the difficulties of group work. It can be hard for students to filter out the conversations of others nearby, as well as maintaining concentration.

Helpful strategies:

- Clear explicit instructions.
- Clearly defined roles and actions.
- Prior warning of group work.
- Small group sizes, of 5-8 are preferable as recommended by Beardon and Edmonds (2008). Smaller group sizes are easier to navigate and are less socially overwhelming (Hastwell et al. 2012).

“Encourage the group to set ground rules right from the start” (Fabri, 2016, n p).

[My World Top Tip - Group work - YouTube](#)

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