Eavesdropping on experts

**Creating a comfortable classroom Tip 1**

[Music]

Dawn, Researcher

So when thinking about creating a comfortable classroom, we have to first of all think about the learning activities but also the activities that are in between their learning activities. So look around the classroom and explore whether there are places the child can go if they need some quiet time or look around a classroom and wonder what supports are for children in the transitions between activities. So if you're moving from a desk to may be an activity on the carpet making sure that there's some support and structure for the child when moving between these activities.

Michelle, Autism Coach

In relation to creating a comfortable classroom, my first top tip would be sit in every seat in that classroom and get a real sense of the environment and watch the classrooms like when sitting in that particular seat so is this where we get glare in the morning or the afternoon through the windows, is this a particular seat, where we get some visual distractions from what's happening outside or in other areas within the classroom. Is this the seat that's particularly noisy or quiet and just really have a sense, as a teacher, what all the seats in that classroom are like and going to be like for that student. And then you might use that information to think about and encourage students to sit in a seat, in that classroom, that's really going to meet their needs.

Chris, I CAN Network

Have a dedicated part of your whiteboard that's always for the schedule, so and be quite detailed with the schedule, avoid putting times next to the schedule because any autistic learner will probably keep you accountable to those times but have the order of activities in that lesson and the clear purpose of the lesson up there. Now the reason that's important for some learners on the spectrum is because we, and I'm on the spectrum we are a naturally anxious group if there's parts of the lesson that we don't really like we're probably just bearing and grinning and suffering in silence to get through that activity to get to the part that we do want to do.

[Music]