Eavesdropping on experts

**Supporting a student with autism at school Tip 2**

[Music]

Dawn, Researcher

My second tip is to appreciate the importance of routines and predictabilities for individuals on the autism spectrum and work with these and incorporate them wherever possible. It's not just a preference routine the intolerance of uncertainty is really, really strong in individuals on the autism spectrum so that means when things are uncertain or unpredictable it's actually very difficult and it means that there's less sort of brain space left to learn.

So if we can stick with routines and make environments as predictable as possible that increases the opportunities for individuals to participate and learn within a classroom setting.

Chris, I CAN Network

In terms of supporting students with autism at school is important and it's more about your attitude as the teacher and the principal and it's a very simple one, but it's to have high expectations and to give a loving push to your students, that is really important you if you are thinking that your four students among your 26 students in that class on the spectrum are going to take more time, are going to have lower grades, then you need to adjust how you're looking at them, because I have seen young people in my program, through the benefit of their teachers, becoming Dux of their year levels when they're given the right structures and supports in place and that is fantastic because that is a school that benefits from embracing autism. So you need to have high expectations, you need to give a loving push, you need to be consistent with your boundaries and things that you put in place, when you do that you will get some fantastic results for your school.

Michelle, Autism Coach

My second top tip is get to know the student, build a relationship with the student and teachers in schools have some really innovative ways of getting to know students whether that be spending time connecting and having conversations about areas of interest, whether that be connecting with family members and getting more information about that student, there's also some really other interesting ways that teachers do that so surveys, using individual learner profiles, where students can write down or they can use technology to share information about themselves, things they're interested in, subjects and things that they really like doing at school.

[Music]