

Structured teaching

We use the TEACCH system of structured teaching, which is itself a key part of our Prior Approach.

The core principle of TEACCH is providing structure in teaching across all settings (education, residential and in the community).

Structure comes in many forms:

- Schedules show a structured sequence of events. By outlining to a young person upcoming activities and locations, this reduces anxieties around unknowns and establishes predictability.
- Work/ activity systems follow on from schedules by providing a set of instructions of how to complete a task or series of tasks. This offers structure by helping a person to know what expectations of them there are in the situation.
- Physical structure uses the layout of a room to define expectations and aid understanding. For example, in a classroom, chairs placed in a circle indicate a group activity. Or, in the home, sofas arranged facing a TV indicate what activity can be done in this area.
- Visual structure is presented as instructions (the sequence of steps to complete an activity), organisation (like physical structure, arranging space and materials to help make the flow of the activity clear) and clarity (draw attention to important information within the activity).

We personalise structure to best suit a person's needs. For example, different types of visual instructions – photos, symbols, physical materials or written instructions.

Why structured teaching?

Studies have shown structured teaching provides consistently positive outcomes for individuals with autism, helping them to understand their day and their surroundings, reduce anxieties, aid learning, and develop independence.

Our structured teaching expertise

We have strong links with the University of North Carolina where the TEACCH system of structured teaching was developed.

An exceptional number of our staff are TEACCH-trained, while we also have a significant proportion of the UK's TEACCH Certified Practitioners and TEACCH Certified Advanced Consultants on our staff.

We want to share our experience and expertise with other professionals, parents and others who support young people with complex autism. Training courses are regularly held on our site, led by our Certified Practitioners and Certified Advanced Consultants.