

# TEACHER ASSISTANT COURSE PART 2

## Presented by Dean Beadle



### Understanding and Meeting the Needs of Neurodiverse Students

#### Lesson 1 - Meeting the Needs of Neurodiverse Students

- Busting Four Common Myths about Autism:
  - Autistic People Lack Social Skills
  - Autistic People Don't Want Friends
  - There is such a thing as Autistic Behaviour
  - Autistic People Lack Empathy

#### Lesson 2 - Executive Functioning: Link to Anxiety & Exhaustion

- Why It's Easy to Confuse Executive Functioning with Laziness
- The Simple Yet Powerful Definition of Executive Functioning
- Lived Experience with Executive Functioning
- Strategies to Support Executive Functioning

#### Lesson 3 - Social Needs and Emotions

- The difference between 'Social Skills' and 'Social Knowledge'
- How to make Social Knowledge work in the 'real' world
- Mutual Obligation of Socialisation
- The Power of true alone time
- Allow your students to define what it means to be social
- 2 Key Ingredients for Social Clubs
- Dean Beadle's 90:10 Rule for Social Activities
- The Ladder of Trust
- What is Alexithymia and what you can do about it

#### Lesson 4 - Autistic Rights and Place in Society

- Supports & Accommodation to put in place
- Dean's Primary School Report & Diagnostic Report
- Explanation of Sensory Aversion to having a Hair Cut
- Impact of Labels - 'Good Dean' verses 'Bad Dean'
- How Autistic Youngsters can & should advocate for themselves
- How to help students find a productive & constructive way to deal with feelings

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## Lesson 5 - Transformation Impact Teacher Assistants can Make

- How to leverage the connection between a Teacher Assistant and Student
- Clear Boundaries in the Role and Responsibilities between the Teacher and Teacher Assistant
- How long should you keep the same Teacher Assistant?
- Discussing the Myth that Teacher Assistants are a barrier to peers and teacher

## Lesson 6 - How to Disclose Diagnosis

- Dean's personal story and 'Rule of Thumb'
- Tips for how and when to share the diagnosis.
- The Value of Autistic People learning from other Autistic People
- Insights on how the word Autistic can cause anxiety
- Dean's encouragement - never give up!

## Lesson 7 - How to Create the Setting for Students to Accept Themselves

- Importance of Autistic voice and how it transformed Dean
- Breaking the Medical Model
- Dean's 5 pieces of advice to anyone at the beginning of their Autistic Journey

## Lesson 8 - Autistic Joy

- A window into the beauty and joy of Autism Spectrum



BONUS - 45 minute Q&A with Sue Larkey and Dean Beadle