

## Strategies and Research

The Links Curriculum uses several of the **National Autism Center** established evidence-based practices, including:

- ★ Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)
- ★ Schedules
- ★ Self-management (promoting independence)
- ★ Task Analysis
- ★ Modeling (imitation)
- ★ Discrete Trial Training
- ★ Story-based social narratives
- ★ Structured Work Systems

Learn more about research on the Links Curriculum at [starautismsupport.com/curriculum/research](http://starautismsupport.com/curriculum/research)

## ABA Strategies

Some of the ABA strategies we use in the Links Curriculum include:

- ★ Discrete Trial Training
- ★ Functional Routines
- ★ Positive Behavior Supports



## Mission statement

STAR Autism Support (SAS) provides curriculum materials, workshops, and training to school and agency staff who work with students with autism.

Our mission is to help others successfully implement research-based applied behavior analysis (ABA) techniques. We want every child with autism to receive effective instruction!

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# CAREGIVER OVERVIEW

A quick guide to using the Links Curriculum

# Strategies for Teaching, Based on Autism Research



## Understanding Autism

As a spectrum disorder, every child diagnosed with autism **has a range of abilities**. Key characteristics of children diagnosed with autism include difficulty with social communication as well as restricted and/or repetitive behaviors. However, while one child with autism may be non-verbal, another may have a large vocabulary, but struggle with the pragmatics of social communication. This makes a one-size-fits-all education challenging.

Children diagnosed with autism also have **incredible strengths**. From being excellent visual learners with a keen eye for detail to absorbing and retaining facts and being experts in their favorite subjects, they bring a unique set of skills to any situation.

That's why our Links Curriculum is **designed to adapt and fit** to your child's individual learning needs. We recognize and use each child's strengths individually to teach important skills, support socialization, and help them thrive in and out of the classroom.

## How can you support your child with the Links Curriculum?

You are a valuable partner in the education of your children. In combination with the Links Curriculum, we encourage you to communicate with your school team on:

- ★ Effective teaching strategies to use at home and in the community
- ★ Ways to promote your child's social-communication skills
- ★ Approaches to teaching during daily family and community routines

## What is the Links Curriculum?

The Links on-line Curriculum uses evidence-based practices to provide comprehensive, individualized assessments and lessons for instruction to your child! It includes:

- ★ A comprehensive assessment
- ★ Instruction across 5 curricular areas
- ★ Daily data collection to drive instruction
- ★ Evidence-based instructional strategies
- ★ A strong focus on daily routines to increase independence
- ★ Easy progress monitoring tools

### With the Links Curriculum, your child will learn:

- ★ Expressive and receptive language skills
- ★ Social communication skills addressed within daily routines
- ★ Academic skills in the context of daily life routines
- ★ Vocational and community skills
- ★ Daily routines they can practice at school, home, and out in the community

Using a combination of 1:1 instruction, group activities, inclusion supports, and a strong focus on gaining independence in daily routines, the Links Curriculum will support your child across home, school, community, and vocational settings.

## Remote Learning

We also offer a synchronous remote learning curriculum, the **STAR Online Learning System (SOLS)**, to give children access to educational services virtually. SOLS includes:

- ★ A scaffolded, IEP-driven curriculum, with 12 adaptable strands
- ★ Real-time coaching, scripted lesson plans, and online visuals to support teacher- and caregiver-based instruction
- ★ Assessments and progress monitoring tools
- ★ Weekly homework packets and extensive independent work activities