



## Classroom Management During the Holiday Season.

**He's making a list  
and so should we.**

The best present to give your students is to plan for the holiday mayhem. Here are a few tips to keep your classroom running as smoothly as possible. For most of us the holiday season brings joy, parties, family, and rest. But for some students it brings anxiety, worry and uncertainty. Keeping your classroom structures and routines as consistent as possible will support students and help them feel calm and safe.

- 1. Review class and building rules with students.**
  - Label, model, and reinforce appropriate behaviors.
- 2. Take time to practice previously taught routines and procedures.**
- 3. Reinforce positive behaviors** ([short clip on reinforcement](#))
- 4. Maintain routines to the best of your ability.** ([short clip on routines](#))
- 5. Monitor your student's behavior and stay one step ahead.**
  - Review data
  - Continue to watch for patterns
  - Make antecedent changes early
- 6. Discuss expectations for special activities.**
  - Provide an example of an art activity
  - Provide a [task analysis](#) or steps
  - Review and/or teach the social expectations for special holiday activities
- 7. Provide visual supports or social narratives for new activities or field trips.**
  - [Holiday visual supports resources](#)
  - [Social narrative for Christmas break](#)
- 8. *PRIME* for changes coming in the week, the day, or the hour.**
  - [Preparing for non-routine example](#)
  - [Priming video resource](#)
- 9. Provide a calendar**
  - Show school vs home days
  - Special activity days

**10. Reduce stimulation in your classroom.**

- Lower the noise level
  - [5 point scale voice levels](#)
  - [Use the 6" voice](#)
- Be aware of adding extra decorations

**11. Embed your holiday activities into existing classroom structures.**

**12. Sometimes less is more. Ask yourself:**

- Are these activities meaningful?
- Do they bring joy to the student?
- Will this just add more stress?

**13. Encourage students to use their “toolbox” of strategies to self-regulate.**

- Asking for a break or opting out (as appropriate)
- Using safe spots or [peace corners](#)
- Listening to music, etc.

**14. Be mindful of those who celebrate holidays differently and plan accordingly.**

**15. Communicate with families**

- Make sure they know if there is a new or different activity taking place
- Ask what strategies they think would best support their child
- Involve them in special activities or trips

**15. Keep Calm and Carry on!**

- Students feel our stress
- Practice [self-care](#)

Happy Holidays from the TASN-ATBS Crew



**Funding Statement for TASN Autism & Tertiary Behavior Supports Products**

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