TEACCH

The TEACCH approach is based on structured teaching and organization of classes that arrange the environment in a way that children with autism can understand and develop independence.

Here at Acorns, we focus on 3 main components:

The physical structure

At Acorns we provide a low arousal environment which minimizes visual and auditory distractions. Rooms are organized visually, so it is apparent to the child which areas of each class serve which function to develop independence.

The visual schedules

All children are taught how to use a visual schedule, which allows them to understand what is to happen throughout the day, and helps them to move between one activity and another and to manage that change with minimum anxiety. The content of the schedule is led by the child's reading abilities. At first it may be objects of reference (a spoon stuck to the timetable denoting food), then photographs, or symbols, or words, whatever the child can 'read'.

The teaching method

We ensure that teaching activities are appropriate and presented in a motivating way that will help children with autism to understand what is expected of them and to take part. This greatly increases the child's independent functioning and will help them in life-long skills. Teaching staff will break up the task with short and clear instructions (e.g. mini schedules) providing additional multisensory aids who promote small group class activities, model social situation and set clear expectations.

Pupils learn to work independently through the use of a structured work system in which work is presented in a systematic and organized way that the child is able to understand. This system can be used for any type of task – curriculum activities, daily living skills, recreation and inclusion.