



Planning for  
**AUTISM**

# Autism Audits

[www.PlanningforAutism.com](http://www.PlanningforAutism.com)

# Overview

## Learning Objectives:

After reading this powerpoint, you should be able to

- Describe what an environmental audit is
- Know how to conduct an environmental audit
- Understand what should be reported - and why

# Autism Audits

- 2 main goals: to figure out what the autism friendliness strengths and weaknesses of any environment are, and to inform autistic people about specific aspects of the environment where they may need to use their own strategies to manage things
- The aim of an audit is to ensure that the space is as accommodating as possible for neurodiverse visitors
  - Includes toilets, parking lots, elevators, drinking fountains, and break areas
- Audits can note **sensory, communication, and social factors** in any environment

# Autism Audits

- It's important to have a team of both neurotypical and neurodiverse individuals as auditors working together
- One simple way is for auditors to note what they discover using digital survey tools like Google forms
- Use neutral statements about sensory, communication, and social aspects of the environment that are accompanied by dropdown menu options to either agree or disagree
- Example: *The temperature of this place was just about right.* Then you can agree or disagree with that neutral statement.

# Autism Audits

- Smells
- Noise levels
- Clarity and usefulness of visuals, signs, and labels
- Lighting
- Crowding and crowd management
- Parking
- Layout and organization of buildings and exterior spaces
- Signage for restrooms and entrances/exits
- Availability of people to help if needed, people identifiable as employees
- Communication options when purchasing items or achieving venue or event goals
- Access to different types of communication including words and images, computer keyboards, help buttons
- Space to move
- Options for comfortably using personal self-management strategies like stimming
- Safety factors
- Temperature

# Stay Objective

Tips to help auditors objectively evaluate the environment:

- Use smartphone apps
  - A decibel reader app can assess the sound levels
  - A light meter app can assess the light intensity
  - A thermometer app can assess the temperature
- Review feedback from autistic individuals themselves
- Use auditor's observations
- Review the venue's website & social media for information on busiest hours, events, and other resources

# Report for Autistic Individuals

- Talking through audits with the team is helpful to make a report
- In the report include
  - Good to know factors about the environment
  - Feedback from neurodiverse individuals about their experiences/observations
  - Suggestions for preparing to attend the venue
  - How autism friendly it is on a scale

# Report for Community Venues

- Include sensory, communication, and social factors that are in good shape
- Include factors that are not modifiable but people should still know about
- Include possible recommendations
- Concluding statement to transition to the next step such as
  - “We think these are some of your environmentally friendly strengths and these are some areas you may be able to improve. Please feel free to contact us with questions or for ideas or strategies.”



# Final Takeaways

- Reports for autism audits can look very similar to one another - and that's ok!
- Creating a basic template that can be changed up is helpful and creates consistency.
- If there are action items to consider, be realistic, and make your suggestions specific.
- The more audits you do, the better you will get at the whole process
- The more consistently autism friendly all of your venues can be, and the more predictable things can be for autistic visitors!



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Dr. Tina Fletcher, Alicia Chen, Ashlee Norris, Edgar Pizarro, Jason Tran, Megan Tripp

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