



Fostering Spln: The Key to Connection & Lifelong Learning

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Objectives

01

Defining Spln

02

Understanding Spln & Learning

03

Understanding Spln & Social
Connection

04

Q&A

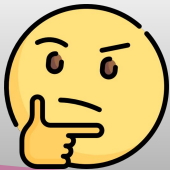


Spln Special + Interest



What brings you

Joy





What are Splns?

Passions

Areas of Study

Opportunities

Identity

(Winter-Messiers, et al., 2007)



Sylvia

Art • Music • Sanrio & Hello Kitty • Fashion • Animals • Crystals



I love doing my makeup & nails



I love fashion design!



my pets: Socks, Ashes, Ginger, Clyde



music & art saved my life



sea otter in a Hello Kitty hat !!!

My Melody, Sanrio



rose quartz is one of my favorite crystals



Unmotivated

Lost

Zoned Out

Unfocused

Disruptive

Lazy







Yesterday, I learned on how to trace over different body parts in Procreate. It all started when I inserted a photo of a woman's pose into Procreate. I learned on how to use the circles for joints and the lines to connect these joints. I also learned on how to locate different parts of the face. I just hope I learn more of the these today.



Understanding Spln & Learning



Motivation & Engagement



Positive Learning Outcomes



Accommodation Considerations



Motivation & Engagement



Intrinsic motivation and engagement in SpIn are directly linked.

(Grove, et al., 2018)

“...intrinsic drive is stronger in autistic adults than in people without an autism diagnosis,”

(Grove et al., 2016, as cited in Grove, et al., 2018, p. 772)

Positive Learning Outcomes



Overall Positive Learning Outcomes

In a scoping review of how SpIns were used within schools to support inclusion and learning in teens, it was determined across several studies that the inclusion of SpIns resulted in positive learning outcomes.

Improvements in Speaking Skills

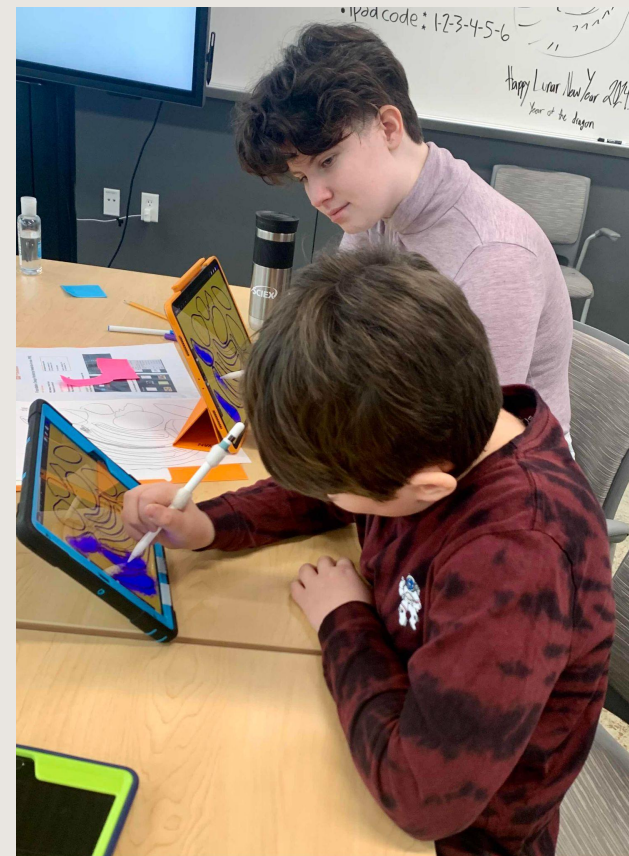
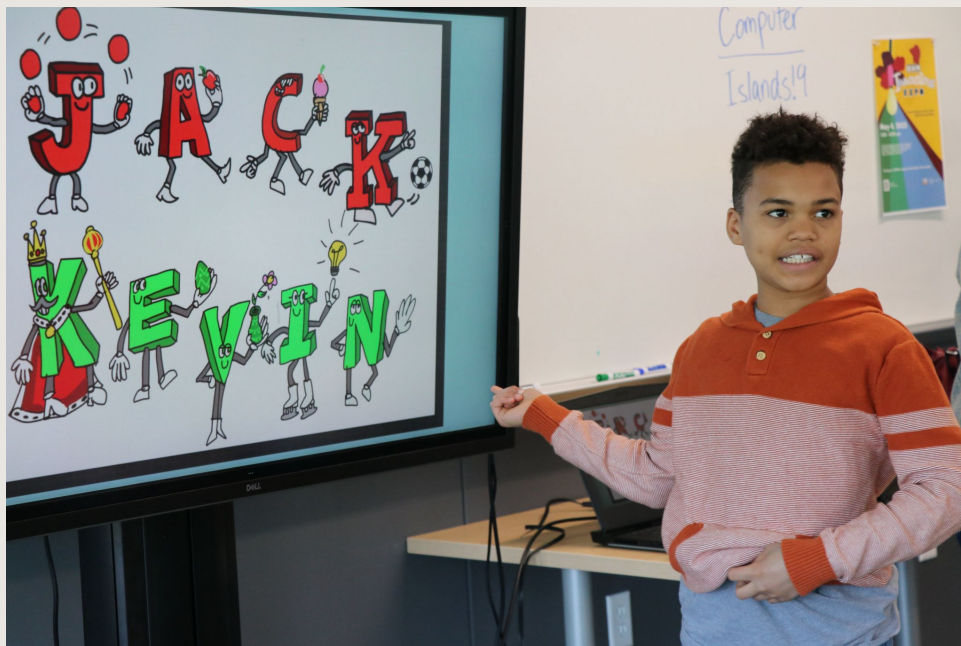
- Vocabulary
- Word order/Syntax
- Tone and tonal shifting

Increased Perseverance

- Fine motor activities

(Tansley, et al., 2022;
Winter-Messiers, 2007)







Accommodating for SpIn-Centric Learning



**Physical
Space**



**Curricular
Planning**



**Classroom
Culture**



**Collaboration and
Communication**

(Tansley, et al., 2022)





Spln: Fashion & Design

Social Studies

Climate and Historical Events Impact on Clothing Styles of the Time Period

Math

Exploring Fractions and Decimals as They Relate via a Simulated Shopping Experience

English

Allow for an Independent Study of Informational Text on Fashion, and Present their Findings to a Small Group

Science

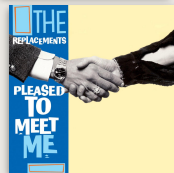
Explore Evolution in Animals and Compare Evolutionary Principles to the Evolution of Fashion Trends





Cole

Art History, Film and video production,
music, sports, birds, visual art.





Shayne

Cartoons/Animation • Jazz Music • Looney
Tunes • Drawing • Animals • Paleontology

Cartoons I Like

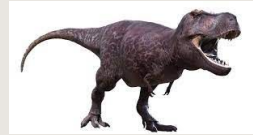
Animals



My Own Characters (Armstrong, Willy, and ME-GOR)



Paleontology



Jazz Music





Off-Topic

Unmotivated

Unempathetic

Solitary

Disconnected

Reclusive

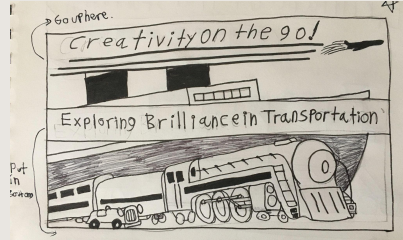






Harry

Trains, Art and Illustrations, Video Games,
Film, Animation, Animals, Music



Understanding Spln & Social Connection



**Identity
& Self-Image**



**Communication
Skills**



**Social Engagement
& Self-Regulation**





Identity & Self-Image

“To know a child or youth with AS [Asperger Syndrome] is to know his or her special interest area [SIA]. SIA are serious, core passions, and we cannot truly know a student with AS without knowing his or her SIA.”

(Winter-Messiers 2007, p.150)

In accordance with current terminology, AS [Asperger Syndrome] can be replaced with “autism.”





Communication Skills



- Increased fluidity and fluency of communication
- Improved response to social communication
- Increased social sensitivity and awareness

(Winter-Messiers 2007;
Tansley, et al., 2022)



Social Engagement & Self-Regulation



- Improved Engagement in Social Activities
- Improved Coping Skills
- Mitigation of Sensory Stressors

“In the face of negative emotions, participants had learned to focus on their SIA, actively in their minds, to help them cope.”

(Tansley, et al., 2022;
Winter-Messiers, 2007)

(Winter-Messiers 2007, p.146)



Healthy engagement in Splns is associated with improved quality of life!

(Grove, et al., 2018)



Q&A



Sylvia
they/them



Cole
he/him



Shayne
he/him



Harry
he/him



Kate
she/her

Celebrate





THANKS!

Do you have any questions?

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Outcomes

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References



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