

School Preparation Kit

A practical and detailed guide for therapists and educators, using VB-MAPP and ABA principles for developing academic and routine skills in children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

Prepare to transform your students' school experience with effective and scientifically based strategies.



Introduction

Unlocking Potential: School Readiness and ASD

The transition to and success within the school environment are significant challenges for children with ASD. Structured preparation is crucial not only for academic performance but also for socio-emotional development and autonomy.

This kit offers a clear and practical path, integrating VB-MAPP as a compass to map skills and personalize interventions, ensuring that each child reaches their maximum learning potential.



Foundation

Reading for Children with ASD: A Structured Approach

Developing reading skills in children with ASD requires a systematic approach tailored to their specific needs, utilizing VB-MAPP milestones to guide progress.

1 Prerequisites (VB-MAPP VBMTS Milestones)

- Motor and vocal imitation.
- Picture and word matching.
- Visual and auditory discrimination.

2 Initial Methods

- Focus on decoding and visual word recognition (e.g., whole word method).
- Use of flashcards with immediate reinforcement.
- Reading aloud by the educator with clear intonation.

3 Text Comprehension

- Direct questions about the text.
- Matching activities (word-picture).
- Construction of simple sentences from read words.

4 Adapted Stimuli

- Books with pictograms and minimal visual distraction.
- Social stories to contextualize reading.
- Interactive digital resources for engagement.

A practical example is to use a visual checklist for the child to mark each word read, followed by a tangible or social reinforcer.

Teaching Strategies

From Tracing to Expression: Writing in the Context of ASD

Writing involves multiple skills, from fine motor coordination to the expression of ideas. The strategies below, based on ABA principles, aim to develop each of these components gradually.

Fine Motor Coordination

- **Pincer Grasp Exercises:** Using tweezers to pick up small objects, play-doh.
- **Tracing Activities:** Drawing over dotted lines, mazes.
- **Letter and Number Tracing:** On whiteboards, in sand, or on paper with guide lines.

Sequencing and Structure

- **Order of Events:** Sequencing image cards to form a story.
- **Sentence Construction:** Using word cards to form simple sentences.
- **Modeling and Reinforcement:** Demonstrating the writing process and reinforcing each step.



Organization and Autonomy

Structured School Routines: Predictability and Success

Children with ASD benefit immensely from predictable routines. Structuring the school environment and daily activities is fundamental to reducing anxiety and promoting participation.



Visual Schedules

Use cards, boards, or applications with images to represent the sequence of activities (e.g., "arrive," "coat closet," "math class"). Ensure the child can consult and manipulate the schedule.



Space Organization

Define specific locations for materials (books, pencils, toys) with visual labels. This minimizes searching and transition time between tasks.



Positive Reinforcement

Reward adherence to routine and completion of tasks. This can be done through specific praise, token economy systems, or access to preferred activities.



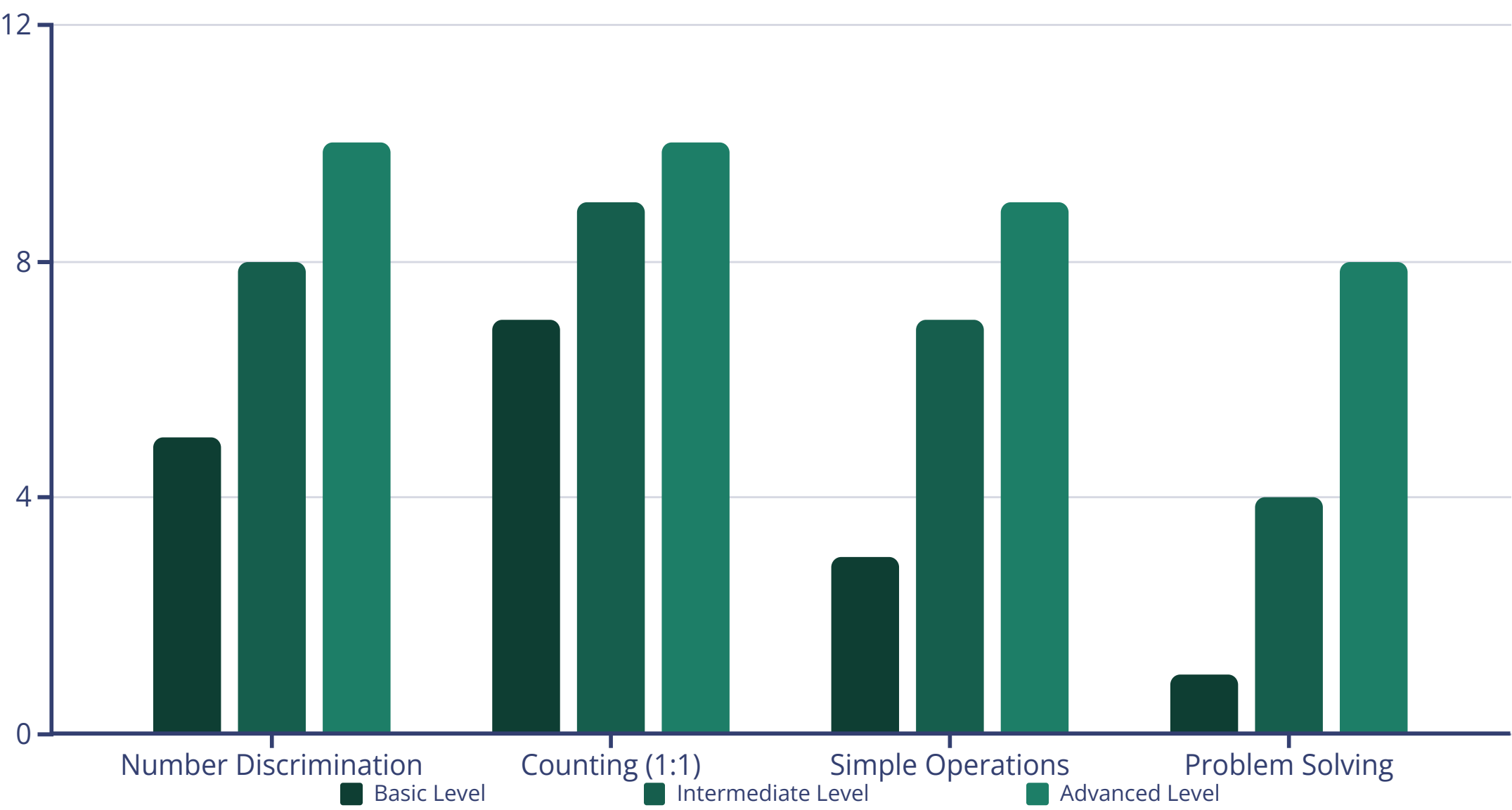
Gradual Flexibility

Introduce small variations into the routine (e.g., "different book day") in a controlled manner and with advance notice, teaching how to cope with unexpected changes.

Numerical Skills

Mathematics with VB-MAPP: From Concrete to Abstract

Teaching mathematics to children with ASD, based on VB-MAPP, follows a progression from concrete to abstract, focusing on graded and contextualized activities to develop logical-mathematical reasoning.



The chart above illustrates a typical progression of mathematical skills, moving from discrimination and counting (VB-MAPP Level 1) to operations and problem-solving (VB-MAPP Levels 2 and 3).

Activities should include object manipulation, numerical games, and real-life problem situations.

Practical Tools

Application Checklists: Optimizing Daily Practice

To streamline the routine of therapists and educators, we have created practical checklists that ensure consistent application of strategies and monitoring of the child's progress.

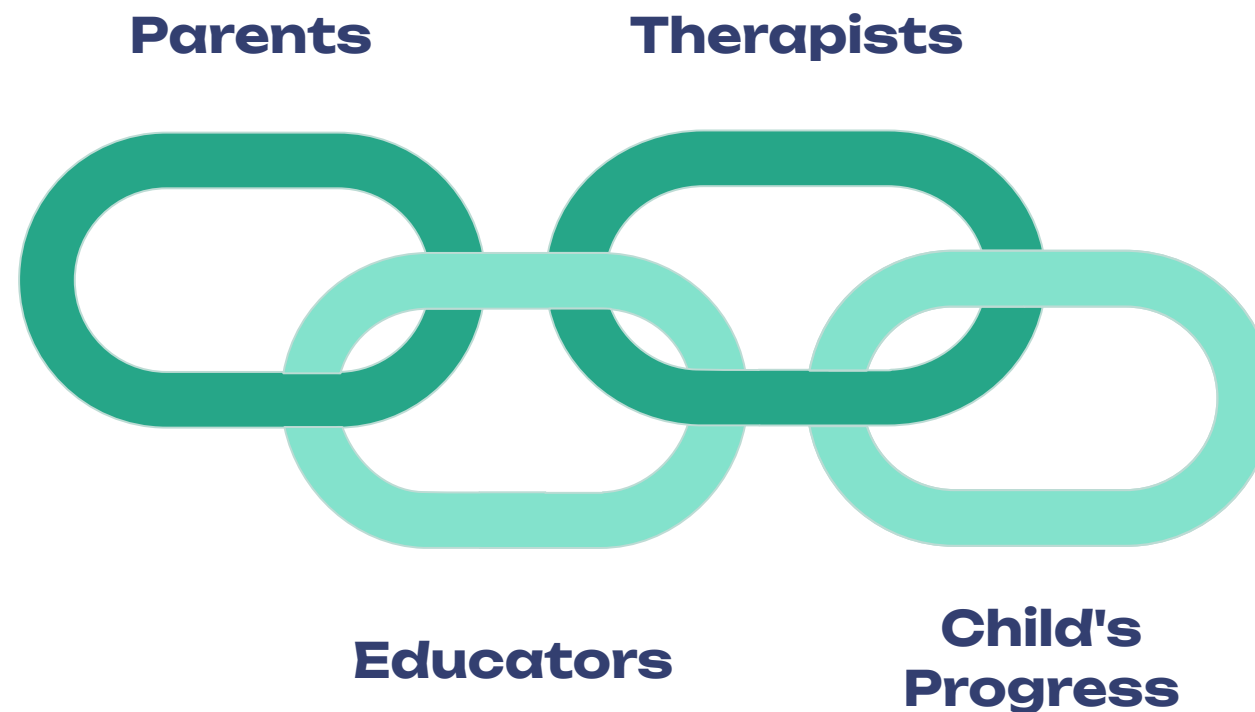
Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Verify prerequisites (matching, visual discrimination).• Use flashcards with visual words and immediate reinforcement.• Apply comprehension questions after reading.
Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Propose fine motor coordination activities (playdough, tracing).• Teach sequencing (story cards).• Provide modeling for letter and phrase formation.
Routines	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implement clear visual schedules.• Organize the space with visual labels.• Offer positive reinforcement for adherence to routine.
Mathematics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conduct 1:1 counting activities.• Use manipulatives for basic operations.• Propose contextualized problems.

These checklists serve as a quick reminder and a recording tool for the multidisciplinary team.

Essential Collaboration

Engaging Parents: Bridging School and Home

Partnership with parents is crucial for the generalization of learned skills and the continuity of interventions at home. This maximizes the child's progress and strengthens family support.



An example of effective collaboration is the use of a "communication log" where parents and professionals exchange information about the child's day and the strategies used, ensuring alignment.

Curricular Adaptation

Skill Levels: Strategies by VB-MAPP Profile

Interventions must be adapted to the child's skill level, as mapped by the VB-MAPP. This ensures that teaching is always challenging yet achievable, promoting success and motivation.



Beginner Level

(VB-MAPP Milestones 1-5)

- Focus on prerequisites (joint attention, matching, imitation).
- Concrete and visual activities (magnetic letters, counting with objects).
- Clear, single-step instructions.



Intermediate Level

(VB-MAPP Milestones 6-10)

- Introduction to reading and writing simple words.
- Basic math problem-solving.
- More complex routines with increasing independence.



Advanced Level

(VB-MAPP Milestones 11-16)

- More elaborate text comprehension and complex sentence writing.
- Abstract math problem-solving.
- Social and self-regulation skills in the school context.

Conclusion: The Path to Effective Inclusion

This ASD School Preparation Kit aims to equip therapists and educators with the necessary tools and strategies to promote meaningful school inclusion.



Precise Mapping

The use of VB-MAPP allows for the identification of gaps and the planning of interventions based on concrete data.



Continuous Collaboration

The partnership between family and school is key to the generalization of skills and long-term success.



Lasting Impact

By investing in school preparation, we are building a future with greater autonomy and opportunities for children with ASD.

Together, we can transform the school environment into a truly welcoming and stimulating space for every student.