

# 3 Practical Takeaways



## Supporting social participation of neurodivergent students

*It requires a shift in our focus!*

Lessons from Chen, Y. L., & Patten, K. (2021). Shifting Focus From Impairment to Inclusion: Expanding Occupational Therapy for Neurodivergent Students to Address School Environments. American Journal of Occupational Therapy, 75(3), 7503347010p1-7503347010p7.

### 1 Disability is a mismatch between person & environment

- Participation challenges are not exclusively due to personal characteristics
- The social environment can be a big barrier to participation

### 2 Assess how the social environment impacts participation

- What are the attitudes of peers and school staff towards disability?
- Do school policies and procedures support social participation of all students?
- \* Include the student with disabilities' view of their social environment

### 3 Social environmental barriers are malleable...address them!

- Promote inclusion by conducting peer awareness education
- Advocate for inclusive school practices and opportunities for social participation

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