

## **www.autismhelp.info**

### **Fear of failure**

#### **Points to note**

- Many children with autism are very particular about certain aspects of their work. He may insist on getting things right, starting an activity, making a mistake, then starting over again. He may have great difficulty completing a task.
- Some children become frustrated by their mistakes; scribbling over them or furiously rubbing them out until they make a hole in their paper. This causes even greater distress!
- Children with autism may be very reluctant to take part in any unfamiliar activity. They like to stick with preferred activities that they know they can do well.

#### **What you can do**

- Don't comment on failure, just show the child the correct way.
- Avoid negative comments, like saying 'no' or 'that's not right'.
- Show the child that you make mistakes too and show him how you deal with them, ie. if you make a spelling mistake, you can simply put a line through the word.
- Build success into activities - ensuring that tasks are not too difficult.
- Children with autism might receive a lot of negative comments about their behaviour, so counter this with praise at every opportunity. Children with autism need a lot of encouragement. See also [Self esteem and depression](#).