Mick Grimley:

Hello, welcome to week 4 wrap up for the Autism MOOC. This week we looked at labels and we looked at making a plan for our skill.

Labels was a really interesting topic and people really got involved in discussing the issues and the positives about labels. There were some real heartfelt stories about how people have negotiated labels for individuals with Autism.

One of the issues that did actually come out this week was that it really is difficult quite often for carers and parents and the individual with Autism out in the general public. The general public sometimes can be very ignorant of the label, ignorant about what is actually going on, and very ill-informed about the person’s situation and can be very critical, which really doesn’t help when out in public situations. What do you think about this Emma?

Emma Donaldson:

Oh I agree Mick, I think that for parents and carers it is a huge issue and wouldn’t we all be better off without it.

This week we also covered off making a plan, in terms of how are we going to solve the issues to the scenarios we had presented to us by thinking through the plan that we are going to do and I had a look at Scenario A with Sally and what was really nice to see was participants were not only putting themselves in the shoes of Sally, but also her parents and siblings as well, so the participants really saw the importance of making a plan when implementing a solution to the problem.
Mick Grimley:

Yeah and I looked at Scenario B Karl going to a speech therapist, that was an interesting one as well. There were some very complex plans, it was great to see people incorporating Karl’s special interest. It was clear that a plan is really important because situations, every situation is different and we really need to make plans so that we can deal with these situations appropriately, and think about alternatives if things go wrong on the day.

Emma Donaldson:

Yes, yes and in terms of our videos, we had lots of contributions there saying how important the videos by Chris and Murray were, in helping them see label as an enabler, which was a breath of fresh air for our participants as well.

Speaking of which, we have more additional resources so they are available for participants to look at and we also have an exemplar for participants to see what conversations are going on in the other groups as well.

Mick Grimley:

Yeah and week 5 we will be looking at transitions, and testing it out. So that is all for this week, we really look forward to seeing you next week!