

Motivate your Student with Power Cards! By Megan Miller, PhD, BCBA-D

Jimmy is having difficulty paying attention in class, raising his hand to answer questions, and following directions from his teacher. Jimmy loves to play Minecraft so his teacher decides to create a Power Card for him to help remind him to follow classroom expectations.

Power Cards, created by Elise Gagnon, provide a visual reminder to students with autism based on the student's motivation. The card includes a picture of the student's interest and a few sentences written in the first person that provide direction to the student about following expectations in a specific activity or setting. Power cards can be created for any challenging situation that your students face, should include 3-5 reminders, and can be sized small enough to fit in the student's pocket or large enough to hang on the wall of your classroom.

Here is the Power Card that Jimmy's teacher made for him:



Alex wants you to remember:

Keep your eyes on your teacher

Raise your hand to answer a question

Listen to your teacher when she tells you to do something

Additional Power Card Resources:

- Training module on OCALI:
http://www.ocali.org/project/resource_gallery_of_interventions/page/power_cards

- Article about Power Cards with Additional Examples:
<http://www.myaspergerschild.com/2015/05/the-power-card-strategy-social-skills.html>
- Demonstration of Power Card: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-iao8IteKH0>