# DESIGNING FOR SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS & DISABILITIES

### **ISSUE**

Autism is a spectrum disorder in which no two people are completely alike, and different combinations of conditions occur in a continuum of different forms and gradations. Therefore designing a space for autistic people is challenging because of their diversity. In addition they are often either highly sensitive or under-responsive to sensory experiences like sound, light or touch. Due to a different way of information processing, design for people with ASD needs to be carefully curated. Acute awareness of detail and heightened sensory awareness beyond the perception of the average person must be considered to build an environment that is in keeping with the functional and sensory needs of users. Even the smallest details of the built environment can attract the attention, and bombard the senses.

Source: Khare, Rachna & Mullick, Abir. (2008). Educational Spaces for Children with Autism; Design Development Process. In: "Building Comfortable and Liveable Environments for All" International Meeting 'Education and Training", Georgia Tech University, Atlanta, USA, 15-16 May 2008. Conference paper.

### SOLUTION

Here at Dulux Trade Commercial Colour Services, we consult with school teachers and parents to understand the nature and characteristics of the range of needs the design needs to accommodate. We're then able to create a bespoke palette of colours, applying the necessary balance of light, texture and tonal variety that creates the soothing or sensory stimulation required. Delivering more inclusive education environments for children with Autism or other learning difficulties can create a more comfortable place to learn and play.

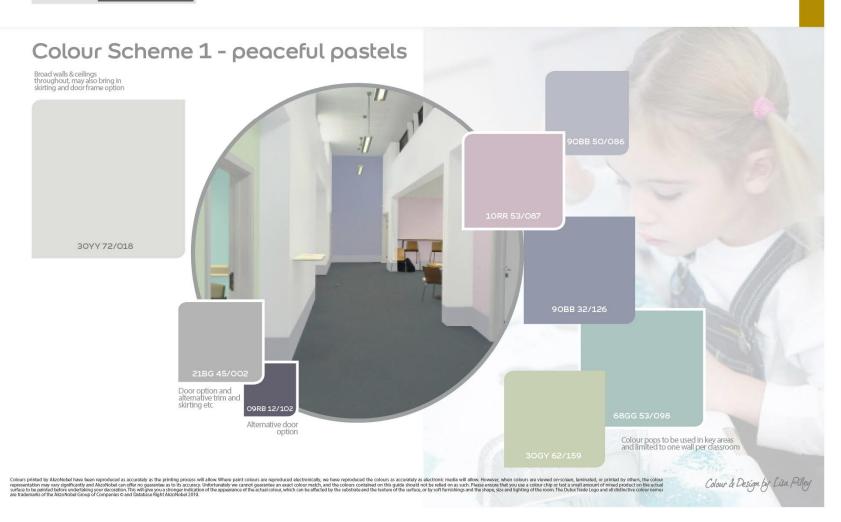


# TAKE ACTION

- Colour will affect each person slightly differently so we would recommend getting
  a bespoke colour scheme that satisfies the very specific requirements involved
- Call us on **0333 222 7171** or e-mail **TAC\_supportedservices@akzonobel.com** for further assistance



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Colour & Design by Lisa Pilley