

A strength-based, interest-driven approach for autistic learners, and a complement to a district's specialized autism services, not a replacement. Grounded in the University of Connecticut's Project 2e-ASD research. Powered by Renzulli Learning.

Interests Are the Entry Point

Many autistic students have deep, focused interests. A strength-based approach uses those interests, strengths, and talents as the entry point to engagement and learning, rather than treating intense focus as a behavior to manage. The Renzulli Profiler is built to identify exactly these interests, and personalized enrichment and projects develop them. Research on academically talented students with autism found that interest-based opportunities, participation in activities of high interest, and connection with peers who share those interests supported both academic success and healthy social and emotional development, and helped reduce the isolation these students often experience.

From Interest, to Engagement, to Talent

Step	What Happens
Surface interests	The Renzulli Profiler identifies each student's interests, learning styles, and expression styles in 20+ languages, capturing the deep, focused interests many autistic students hold.
Match enrichment	40,000+ curated, vetted activities connect students to what they care about, so engagement is intrinsic rather than imposed.
Develop talent	Project-Based Learning gives a clear, interest-driven path from exploring a topic to creating original work.
Support connection	The platform can help identify peers with similar interests and talents, supporting relationships that research links to reduced isolation.
Document strengths	The Total Talent Portfolio records interests, talents, and best work, a strengths-based record for teachers, families, and specialists to build on.

A Complement to Specialized Autism Services

We are direct about the platform's role, because families and educators deserve clarity:

Question	Answer
What it is	A strength-based enrichment and talent development platform that engages autistic students through their interests, develops their talents, and documents their growth, alongside their existing supports.
What it is not	Not a clinical autism intervention, a therapy, or a substitute for specialized autism services, IEP supports, or the individualized care a student's team provides.
How they work together	Specialized services meet developmental and clinical needs. Renzulli Learning adds the strength-based, interest-driven engagement that research links to academic and social-emotional success.

Strength-Based Strategies Reflected in the Platform

Project 2e-ASD research identifies practical strength-based strategies for talented autistic students. Renzulli Learning supports several:

Strategy from the Research	In Renzulli Learning
Interest-based learning	Learning is organized around each student's identified interests through the Profiler and matched enrichment.
Enrichment opportunities	Advanced, high-interest activities and independent study, enrichment associated with 2e-ASD success.
Creative productivity	Type III projects let students produce original work in an area of talent, building competence and confidence.
Connection through shared interests	Peer-interest matching helps students find others who share their passions, supporting connection.
A strengths record	The Total Talent Portfolio keeps the focus on what a student can do, informing planning across the student's team.

The Research Behind the Approach

Grounded in the University of Connecticut's Project 2e-ASD, a research program on academically talented students with autism supported by a Javits grant: Reis & Renzulli (2025), Behavioral Sciences 15(6), 834; Reis, Madaus, Gelbar & Miller (2024), TEACHING Exceptional Children; and Reis, Baum & Burke (2014), Gifted Child Quarterly 58(3). See renzullilearning.com/en/research.

Getting Started

1. Activate the Profiler to surface interests and strengths → **2.** Match interest-based enrichment and projects → **3.** Develop talent through Type III creative work → **4.** Support connection with peers who share interests → **5.** Document growth in the Total Talent Portfolio, alongside specialized services.

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