

Attention Autism Approaches- Bucket Time

Background:

Attention Autism was developed by Gina Davies, Specialist Speech and Language Therapist, as an intervention to support the development of attention skills and early communication skills for children with Autism. Please see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nFYnc4xcZ6k> for an overview.

Bucket time is the first stage of Attention Autism and is all about enabling the child to focus on an adult.

Objectives:

- For the adult leading the intervention to be the child/children's focus
- To engage with enthusiasm



What you need:

- A container with a lid to put the resources in
- Highly motivating toys/objects that can be activated by an adult such as wind-up toys, light up toys, pop up toys, stretchy toys, bubbles, shaving foam etc.
- A now/next board



How the session is run:

- Child/children face the adult who is holding the container.
- The adult uses now/next board to show it is bucket time and illustrate what is next.
- A song is sung. Gina Davies uses: 'I've got something in my bucket, in my bucket, in my bucket. I've got something in my bucket, I wonder what it is?'
- Adult takes out an item from container and names it. The adult then models it working and shows enthusiasm using sounds and facial expressions.
- The adult returns the object and repeats for the next object
- At the end of the objects the adult must clearly state the activity is finished



Top Tips:

- It can be useful to have an additional adult to model engagement and re-direct children- with little communication
- The adult is the most exciting thing in the room, pause to engage children and allow them to look to adult
- Do not ask questions of the child- The adult doing the activity is to model engagement, enthusiasm, attention and focus in both verbal and non-verbal ways.
- If using a bag or box change the word in the song to represent this

- The routine stays the same, but the objects should be changed to ensure engagement and interest
- The lead adult is the only person to touch the resources- if a child attempts to touch the resource it should be put back in the bucket and child encouraged to return to their seat.

Watch this video by Kate Greenstreet from Whitfield Aspen School explaining how she uses the Attention Autism Techniques. <https://vimeo.com/276946822>

Kate is a licensed Attention Autism Trainer and will be running training in 2022 at Whitfield Aspen school.

References made to Gina Davies – Attention Autism and ginadavies.co.uk