

Look and Listen

Aims:

- To develop visual and auditory attention skills
- To develop joint attention skills i.e. looking between the adult and activity
- To develop shared enjoyment of an activity
- To develop understanding of language
- To develop use of vocalisations
- To develop expressive language- vocabulary, single words and short phrases

Process:

Draw now and next on small whiteboard and write and draw on: 'box' followed by 2nd activity- likely to be the attention builder

Box activities:

Have about 3-4 motivating toys

Present the toy in the following way:

- Step 1: take the toy out, show enjoyment and demonstrate being highly motivated and attentive to it. Operate it twice in this way. Don't yet make eye contact with the children.
- Step 2: Add language. For example say 'more', name the item, and say what you are doing e.g. 'caterpillar', 'press'
- Step 3: Add eye contact. Continue to use the language but at this stage you are inviting them to share with you in the enjoyment. At this stage you can build in pauses for the children to use their words and language.

NB: eye contact and language are added gradually so that it creates a low demand environment, particularly for children with ASC. If the children are initiating eye contact and language before this, do respond to it.

Attention Builders:

Attention builders aim to develop the child's ability to attend through steps of an activity. Use the same process as with the toys, do the whole activity once without language or eye contact, do it the 2nd time with language, and the 3rd time add eye contact.

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(from Gina Davies, Attention Autism)