

## Attention Autism

Attention Autism is a fun and engaging intervention created By Gina Davies, a Speech and Language Therapist. It aims to develop foundational language skills.

### Attention Autism Goals:

- To engage attention.
- To improve joint attention.
- To develop shared enjoyment in group activities.
- To increase attention in adult-led activities.
- To encourage spontaneous interaction in a natural group setting.
- To increase non-verbal and verbal communication through commentary.
- To build a wealth and depth of vocabulary.
- Most importantly, to have fun in doing so!



Are your pupils ready for Attention Autism?

Are they able to:

- Focus on a motivating activity for at least a minute.
- Show an emerging ability to anticipate what might happen next during a game.
- With support from an adult begin to engage in a simple turn-taking game.
- Show interest in engaging in play-based group activities.

If the answer to any of the above is no, then the Curiosity Programme may be more appropriate for the pupil.

## The Attention Autism Stages:

### Stage 1: The bucket

- This stage builds on the students' ability to focus on an adult led task. The aim is for the student to focus on three different tasks within a small group activity.



### Stage 2: Attention builder

- This stage works on the ability for the pupil's ability to sustain their attention on one task. Similar tasks are used to that in stage 1 but for a longer duration



### Stage 3: Interactive game

- This stage involves developing turn-taking and shifting attention skills. At this stage the students begin to interact with the activity.



### Stage 4: Table activities

- This stage builds on the pupil's ability to transition. The pupil must pay attention to the adult, and then take their own equipment over to a work station to complete the task. Once completed they should show their finished item to the group.



### Lead Adult Role:

- Have fun and be enthusiastic.
- Use key words.
- Be the most interesting thing in the room.
- Focus on the toys and not on the pupils to draw their attention to the toy.
- Use animated facial expressions.
- Have control of the toys and keep them close.
- Invite them to watch but it is ok if they do not.

### Supporting Adult Role:

- If you are in the room you are in the Attention Autism session.
- Model focused attention.
- "Ohh" and "Ahh" in the right places.
- All eyes on the lead adult.
- Allow the pupil to leave the activity if they are not engaged.
- Focus on having fun.