

# Playing and learning with your child

## Gaining attention

Sometimes children with social communication difficulties or ASD appear to be in a world of their own. They may not respond to their name, show any interest in others or sharing activities. Gaining their attention is essential before you are able to share attention and develop their play skills. Ideas for gaining attention include the use of a range of cause and effect toys and other resources.

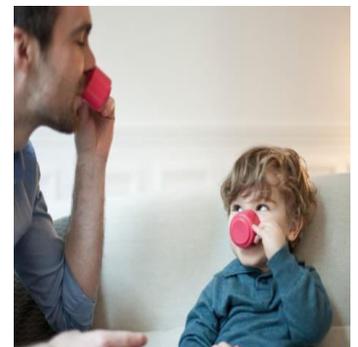
## Sharing Attention

This is the basic skill that children need to have in order to learn. This is sharing a toy, song or activity with you. Your child does not need language to enjoy shared attention activities with you.

Parallel Play - copying the play and sounds your child makes using the same piece of equipment or toy.

Cause and effect toys - bubbles, torch light in a dark room, light spinners etc.

Tickling, chasing games and peek-a-boo which build up anticipation.



## Attention and Listening activities

Treasure box of motivating cause and effect toys.

Bubble snake, lemonade fountain, shake shake ...

Umbrella game (It's raining, it's pouring)

Ready, Steady, Go games with cars, balls etc.

## Sharing Stories and Songs

Stories are more interesting if they have 'lift the flap, props or 'touch and feel' aspects to them. Stories with repetitive lines help children to feel involved in the telling of the story. The use of rhyme and patterns of words help with remembering what comes next and raises enjoyment.



## Songs

Songs with actions are good to sing with your child. Repetitive actions and words help a child to feel involved, respond, pay attention and take part.

Encourage participation using objects, visuals and microphones.



## Turn-taking activities and games

Turn-taking is an important skill to learn. It is important that you begin with a child learning to take turns with an adult. The adult needs to be in control of the activity for instance by putting pieces of a jigsaw in a bag, cars in a box so that they learn to **wait** for their turn. Once the child is confident and able to take turns with a trusted adult you can move onto including another peer/sibling etc.

You can use waiting cards, turn taking visuals and timers to support.

Examples are: car run, inset puzzle, building a tower, light spinner, bubbles etc.

## Top Tips

### Enjoy and have fun!!

Choose a time when your child is in the mood to play

Keep things short and simple at the beginning

Make it fun

Use simple language

Use activities that are motivating to your child

Turn the TV off

Try to make the environment calm and distraction free

### Some useful websites:

[www.childrenstherapies.co.uk/therapy-for-attention-and-listening-skills](http://www.childrenstherapies.co.uk/therapy-for-attention-and-listening-skills)

<http://www.ican-dev.org.uk/games/>

[www.ginadavies.co.uk](http://www.ginadavies.co.uk)

[www.intensiveinteraction.co.uk](http://www.intensiveinteraction.co.uk)

[www.drumbeatasd.org](http://www.drumbeatasd.org)

[www.pinterest.com](http://www.pinterest.com)