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TORBAY COUNCIL

Top Tips for Attention Autism Stages 1 & 2



Things to remember to do!

1. Involvement

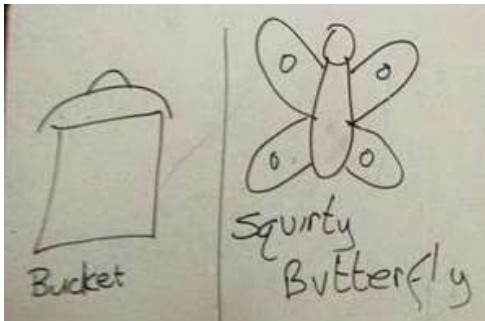
Use your own involvement as a model for:

- ✓ How to join in and that taking the risk is worth it
- ✓ Demonstrating what's expected
- ✓ Enthusiasm and fun
- ✓ Shared attention

2. Drawing

Use drawing to inform the content of the group.

This will:



- ✓ Share the message clearly
- ✓ Lower anxiety
- ✓ Add structure
- ✓ Make it easy to take the risk and join in



Ideas for Stages 1 & 2



3. Activities

Activities need to be:

- ✓ Fascinating
- ✓ Motivating
- ✓ A shared experience
- ✓ Worth communicating about
- ✓ Involve fun and laughter
- ✓ Memorable



4. Know your attention levels

- ✓ Stage 1 Fleeting attention
- ✓ Stage 2 Inflexible attention
- ✓ Stage 3 Single channelled
- ✓ Stage 4 Flexible attention
- ✓ Stage 5 Two channelled
- ✓ Stage 6 Integrated attention

Stage 1: The Bucket - Stick to the rules!

- ✓ It's your bucket
- ✓ It's for the group
- ✓ Show first then words
- ✓ Give time for thinking and STAY QUIET!
- ✓ Rushing adds anxiety
- ✓ Practice and make sure the toys work
- ✓ Get colleagues on board
- ✓ Enjoy the toys

Top 5 Beginners Mistakes

- Talking too much and chatting to supporting adults.
- Asking questions.
- Giving the toys to the children.
- Letting the child dictate the start and finish of the activity.



Stage 2: Attention Builder – It's irresistible!

- ✓ Keep it simple
- ✓ Go for things children love
- ✓ Avoid obsessions
- ✓ Add colour
- ✓ Organise everything you need in advance
- ✓ Make sure everyone gets a good view
- ✓ Sell it with body and soul!

Top 5 Beginners Mistakes

- Over analysing and making it too complicated.
- Talking too much.
- Playing it safe to minimise mess and risk.
- Worrying when things go wrong.
- Rushing when activities should be admired and celebrated!

