



Attention and Interaction



Attention Autism

What is it?



- Attention Autism originates from the idea that successful communication is dynamic, engaging and joyful. We learn best when we work with enthusiasm, motivation and creativity. We remember good times and shared experiences.
- We need to make our interactions irresistible! Attention Autism has been designed to help parents and professionals give their child with autism an irresistible invitation to learn using fantastic activities and having a really good time whilst doing so.
- **The Attention Autism approach provides the child with an experience worth communicating about.**

(Attention Autism is an intervention created by Gina Davies. Drumbeat staff have adopted the framework, principles and ideas to best meet needs of Drumbeat pupils.)

Why do we use the 'Attention Autism' approach at Drumbeat?

- We need to work on concentration so we can plant an idea our pupils' head so we can talk about something that we both have shared and understand.
- Attention autism provides opportunities for language and works on eye contact, gesture, facial expression, proximity, body language, shared experience.
- Attention Autism builds on ASD strengths: Such as visual skills, a memory for motivating things and routines and lots of energy



Why do we use the 'Attention Autism' approach at Drumbeat?

Pupils with ASD often have difficulties with their attention skills. People need to have developed attention and listening skills in order to understand and use language.

Attention Autism strategies can help us start at the attention level pupils are at and help them to build upon it.

The 4 stages of the attention autism approach help children at different levels.

Stage 1- The Bucket: Everyone attends to the same thing chosen by the adult

Stage 2- Attention Builder: Pupils develop longer and sustained attention skills.

Stage 3- Turn-taking games: Pupil learn to shift attention

Stage 4- Independent work: Pupils focus, sustain, shift attention, transition and then refocus.



Intensive Interaction

- What is it?
- Why do we do it?

Functional Communication Vs Emotional Engagement

- Functional Communication = Making our needs known to others, conveying information
- Emotional Engagement = Lets us know how we feel about each other, enjoying human company

What is it?

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UvIEWUbzF4c>

What is Intensive Interaction

- 'Intensive interaction is an approach to teaching the pre-speech fundamentals of communication to children and adults who are still at an early stage of communication development'
- Based on the parent-child communication style
- Teaches the fundamentals of communication – skills needed before speech.

The parent-child interaction style

- Children learn a lot of the basics to communication in the first year of life.
- Imitation
- Attention to others
- Recognition of faces and facial expressions
- Eye contact
- Turn taking
- How do children learn this??

Why do we do it?

- Learning to give brief attention to another person.
- To share attention with another person.
- Learning to extend those attentions, learning to concentrate on another person.
- Developing shared attention into 'activities'.
- Taking turns in exchanges of behaviour.
- Using and understanding eye contacts.
- Using and understanding of facial expressions.
- Using and understanding of non-verbal communication such as gesture and body language.
- Learning use and understanding of physical contacts.
- Learning use and understanding of vocalisations, having your vocalisations become more varied and extensive, then gradually more precise and meaningful.
- TO HAVE FUN!

Follow your child's lead

- DVD
- What did the care givers do well in the dvd?

Follow the child's lead

- OWL
- O – Observe
- W – Wait
- L – Listen



Communication opportunities

- Watch the role play – what communication opportunities did we make during the activity

Your turn....

- Take a scenario or activity (or think of your own at home) and think of how you can make some communication opportunities for your child



- **OWL** Do you remember what this means???



Take home ideas

- Follow the child's lead
- OWL
- Make a mistake
- Offer a choice
- Put something out of reach

- Any questions?
- Contact:
- Hannah Driver – in Drumbeat Monday – Friday
- Izy Utley – in Drumbeat Monday and Tuesday