

Bucket Time

Your child may have experience of Bucket time and participated in the activity at school. Bucket time is part of 'The Attention Autism Programme' by Gina Davies. You can find more detail about the programme at the following website

<http://ginadavies.co.uk/parents-services/professional-shop/>



In school, all children who it is appropriate for, will participate in this activity, not just children on the Autism Spectrum. Bucket time builds upon a child's attention span and concentration. It develops their ability to be able to attend to an activity or object for extended periods of time.

It also promotes their ability to be able to engage in shared attention- they are attending to something with another person and in a social activity.

It promotes and develops early communication.

Stage 1- The Bucket

This involves having a bucket of toys that are interesting to your child which will grab their attention such as light up toys, spinning toys, shakers etc. You don't have to have a bucket; you can use a biggish bowl or container.



Start by singing/saying hello to your child.

You can say 'It's Bucket Time' to signalise it's time to start.



Introduce an object one by one. You should use simple key words relating to the object e.g. light as the light on the toy comes on.

Your child should sit in front of you to watch the toys as you use them.

Once you have gained your child's attention, stop the toy and say and sign 'stop' (if you know the sign). Wait for a response, sign and say 'more' and start the toy

again. When you want to change the toy say and sign 'finished.' (Use the signs if you know them).

When the session is finished, sign and say 'Bucket Time is finished.'

Stage 2- The Attention Builder

Move onto stage 2 if you feel your child is engaging well with stage 1 and their attention could be extended. You must always start with the bucket and then move onto stage 2. When you feel it's time to finish the bucket, 'say the bucket has finished' and 'now it's time for the blanket.'



Stage 2 involves having an old sheet/blanket and lay it out on the floor. These activities involve getting a little messy! You can choose what you want to do and you do one activity per session. Activities include shaking salt or flour on the blanket, splatting paint, pouring pasta etc. Do for as long as your child is engaging and watching.

When you feel it is time to finish, fold up the blanket and say and sign 'Bucket Time is finished'.

