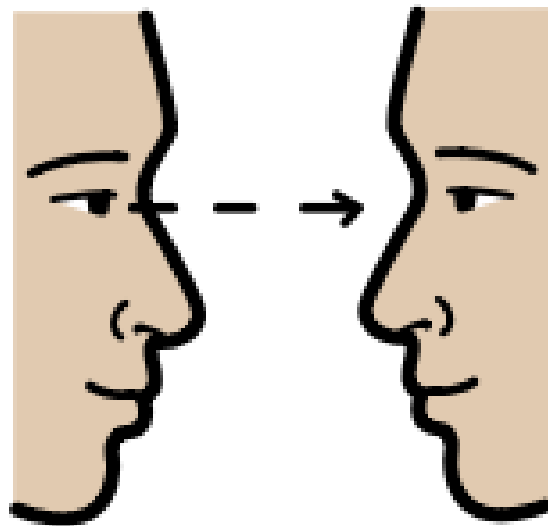
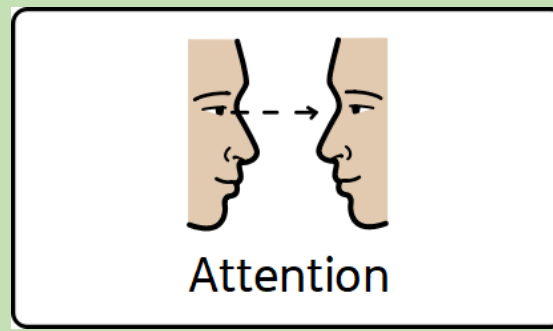




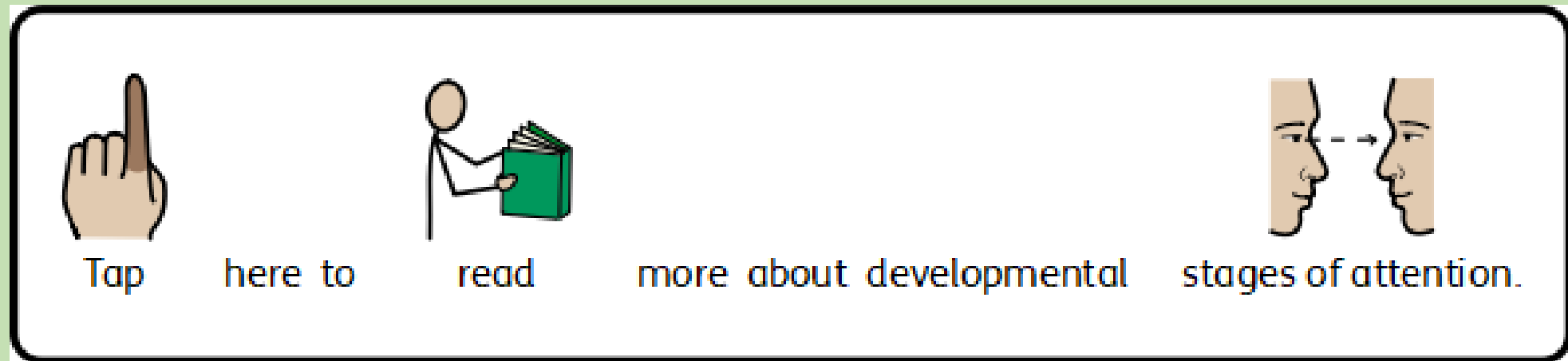
Developing Attention

Attention Autism

Stages 1 and 2 explained

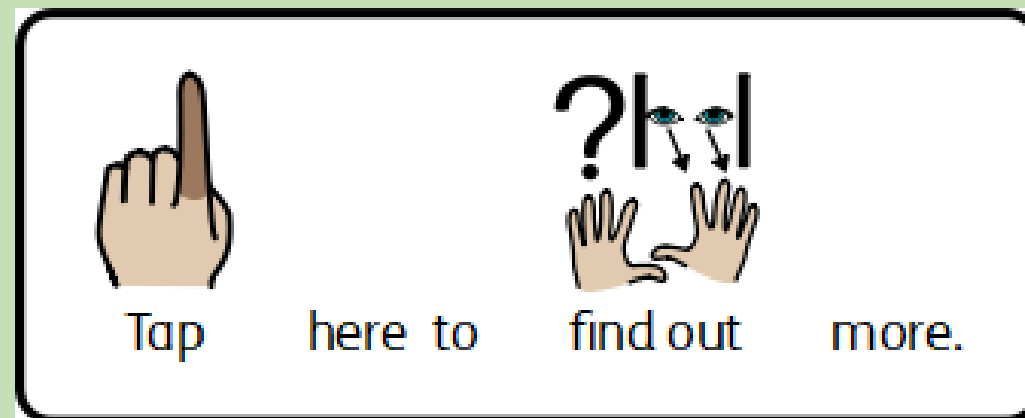


Attention and listening skills are the foundation for learning language. A child needs to be able to attend to relevant things in their environment in order to be able to learn. Adequate attention is required for language development to occur. There are several developmental stages of attention that children progress through.



At Oaklands, we use 'Attention Autism' which is a learning approach to develop natural and spontaneous communication skills in children with Autism.

Attention Autism was developed by Speech and Language expert **Gina Davies**. The aim was to engage children and improve joint attention, develop enjoyment in group activities, increase attention to adult-led activities, increase pre-verbal and verbal communication through commenting, build vocabulary and **have fun!**



- Attention Autism sessions follow a clear structure and are designed to be motivating, exciting and visually engaging for children.
- There are 4 stages to this learning approach:

Stage 1: (The bucket) – Focus Attention

Stage 2: The Attention Builder

Stage 3: Turn-taking and Re-engaging Attention

Stage 4: Shifting and Re-engaging Attention

Stage 1: The Bucket - Focus Attention

If you don't have a bucket,
you can use an alternative.

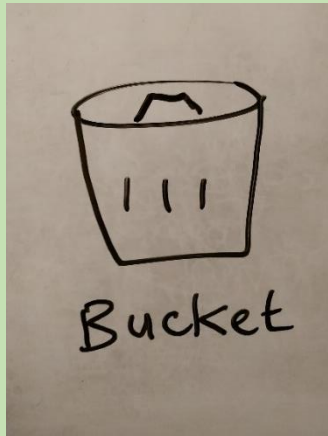


Ensure it has a
lid and the child
can't see what's
inside.

Sequence of Stage 1 – The Bucket

1. Using a whiteboard or paper, draw a bucket and write the word underneath. Make sure the child can see you drawing it.
2. Point to the picture and say, '*time for bucket*' (or box).
3. Whilst tapping the bucket, sing an inviting song to get their attention,

'I've got something in my bucket, in my bucket, in my bucket. I've got something in my bucket, I wonder what it is?'



Tap

to



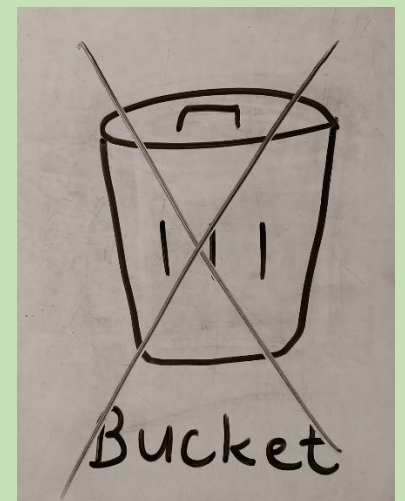
hear



the

song

4. The bucket is filled with visually engaging objects and toys to gain a shared attention with the child. The adult shows **one toy at a time** and uses **simple** language to comment, e.g. 'oh look! It's a car.' 'Let's wind it up... wind it up... and let it go!' 'Wow, it's fast!'
5. Once you have shown a few toys (depending on attention span of the child/children), close the lid of the bucket and draw a cross over the picture **in front** of the child saying, '*bucket is finished.*'



Remember...

- It is important that your voice and facial expressions look and sound exciting and inviting! If **you** look excited and fascinated by what you have in front of you, the more likely the child will too.



- Don't worry if things don't go to plan. If the child is not showing any attention after you have shown them a few toys, stop the session and say, 'bucket is finished.'

- **Don't give up!** Try again another day using different toys from the bucket.



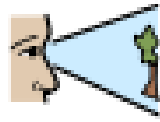
Important notes:

- The adult must **not** give the toy to the child. Avoid using their own toys as they may want to grab them.
- Sit the child behind a table if they are likely to grab the toys or the bucket.
- Don't worry if the child gets up and wanders off. Continue if they are still paying attention from a distance.
- Aim to carry out the session 3 or 4 times a week. Start at 1 minute and build up slowly. When the child can attend for longer, you can try stage 2.

Stage 2 – The Attention Builder



Tap



see



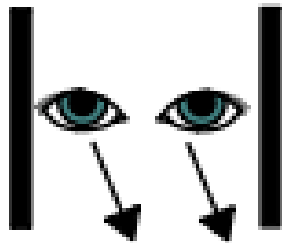
video

At stage 2, visually exciting activities are shown to the child, aiming to keep their attention for longer. The activities are fun, engaging and are often messy!



Tap

here to

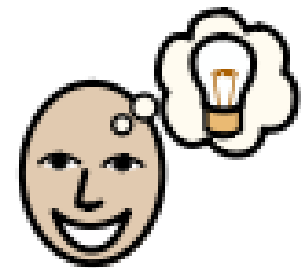


watch



fun and exciting

stage 2



ideas.

By using the Attention Autism approach, you can teach new words and build attention in other day to day activities.

Whilst cooking you can comment on what you're doing (using your excited facial expression and voice), *'oh look, I've got carrots. I'm using a knife to cut them!'*

Or...

Comment whilst washing your hands, 'Wow! I'm using soap to wash my hands, I'm making bubbles!'

MOST IMPORTANT THING TO REMEMBER... HAVE FUN!