

4 stages of Attention Autism

1. The Bucket - **FOCUS**
2. The Attention Builder - **SUSTAIN**
3. The Interactive Game - **SHIFT**
4. Table Activities - **TRANSITION**

Intentions:

- To invite the child to “opt in”
- To share experiences
- To develop a love of learning
- To provide the child with something worth communicating about

Aims:

- Focused, engaged attention
- Engagement on the same thing, at the same time, with peers
- To teach children how to learn and participate, in their way

Attention Levels in a typically developing child (ref: Cooper, Moodley and Reynell, 1978):

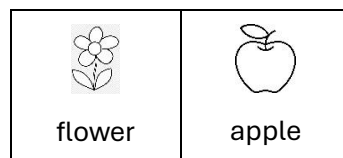
1. Fleeting; easily distracted
2. Rigid attention; on own agenda - doesn't respond to verbal cues
3. Single channel of attention; beginning to tolerate interruptions and respond to verbal cues
4. Attention focus beginning to develop; can stop/start
5. Can listen and do for a short time within a group
6. Can listen and do for sustained periods within a whole class

Prepare for success:

- Start the process where the child is at
- Focus on what the child can do (not what they can't do yet)
- Make yourself/the activity irresistible and fun; be the child's “activity” of choice
- Make the resources visual, appealing and the focus of the activity
- Make yourself/your activity the one source of focus
- Make the surrounding environment clear and distraction free
- Use repetition to encourage the child to join in successfully
- Allow for movement and for the child to “join” in their preferred way

Structure and predictability:

- Use a whiteboard to illustrate sequence - “draw, then write, then say/read”



- Tidy away each activity when “finished”
- Once an activity is complete, strike through and state “finished” and draw, write, then say/read what is next.

Focus on:

- Enabling connections through fun and laughter
- Teaching to the child's strengths and natural interests
- Ensuring the session makes sense to the child
- Building cumulative skills through the 4 stages
- Injecting PEP (pace, energy and passion)

Please note: the Attention Autism approach is a precise, structured way of inviting children to learn. For further information and training opportunities, please access the website here: [Attention Autism for Professional – Attention Autism Ltd](http://www.attentionautism.com)