



# Attention Bucket

**Attention Autism** is an intervention approach to learning that was designed by Speech and Language Therapist Gina Davies. Through the use of visual and highly motivating activities, the model aims to support the development of natural and spontaneous communication.

*An irresistible invitation to learning*

-Gina Davies



## What Does Attention Autism Aim To Do?

- 1** Engage attention.
- 2** Improve joint attention.
- 3** Develop shared enjoyment in group activities.
- 4** Increase attention in adult-led activities.
- 5** Encourage spontaneous interaction in a natural group setting
- 6** Increase non-verbal and verbal communication
- 7** Build a wealth and depth of vocabulary
- 8** To have fun!

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## HOW DOES ATTENTION BUCKET WORK?

The Attention Bucket is conducted in four stages that build on the skill level explored within the previous stage. Children will be supported through each stage until the group is ready to expand their attention skills and the new stage is introduced.

### STAGE 1: THE BUCKET TO FOCUS ATTENTION



A bucket containing highly motivating and visually simulating toys/objects is used to gain the shared attention of the group.

An adult leader will show one object at a time to the group, demonstrating what they do and using simple, repetitive vocabulary to comment on them.

### STAGE 2: THE ATTENTION BUILDER

In order to sustain attention for a longer period, the adult leader will share a visually stimulating, fun and often messy activity.

This activity usually contains short steps that create suspense for the final outcome, with the adult leader using repetitive commenting to enhance this!



### STAGE 3: THE INTERACTIVE GAME



A visually stimulating and interactive activity is demonstrated by the adult leader, often alongside another adult in the group.

Some of the children are then invited to take a turn, however, not all of the children will be able to do so. This supports the development of emotional regulation, waiting, and turn-taking.

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## STAGE 4: TABLE ACTVITIES

To develop the skill of engaging and shifting attention, stage 4 includes the adult leader demonstrating a simple creative task, and then giving the children individual kits for them to complete the task themselves.

The children are encouraged to take their kits to a table, complete the task, and then re-group to show the completed task to each other.



Please refer to the guides for each stage in order to see more details and for ideas of activities that can be used.

**If you have any questions or require any further support implementing Attention Bucket, please contact the Speech & Language Therapy Team at Rowan House: 0161 366 2050.**

### REMEMBER!



**Developing attention can take time and multiple attempts. Ensure that you:**

- Maintain enthusiasms with your gestures and facial expressions.
- Keep activities engaging and enjoyable to both watch and take part in.
- Have enough adult support for the children who may find it challenging at first.

### USEFUL LINKS AND PAGES

#### Gina Davies Autism Centre –

The Facebook page has lots of useful ideas, themes and demonstrations.

<https://www.theautismpage.com/attention-autism/>

[https://search3.openobjects.com/mediamanager/torbay/enterprise/files/attention\\_autism\\_with\\_tc\\_format.pdf](https://search3.openobjects.com/mediamanager/torbay/enterprise/files/attention_autism_with_tc_format.pdf)