

ADVICE SHEET

Identi-Play

Using duplicate material in a structured play intervention

Play in children with ASD is often described as ...

- Repetitive
- Isolated
- Motoric
- Purposeless
- Sensory
- Lacking in imagination

Play relies on:

- language
- social interaction and social understanding
- flexibility and imagination
- social experience and interest in social behaviour

Why is play important?

- **All** children need play skills if they are to be included – children need to experience peer interactions
- Play is a tool for learning - **all** children need this opportunity
- **All** children need to practise social routines in safe surroundings
- It's fun!

Using duplicate materials in a structured intervention helps to develop:

- a shared focus
- imitation
- parallel play
- play dialogue
- narrative structure in the form of play scripts• flexibility

Getting ready ... you'll need:

- A table or play space divided in two (with a clear area for the child's toys and a clear area for the adult's toys).
- Two chairs or mats, usually facing one another, on either side of the table/play space.
- A pack containing two identical sets of toys.
- A script detailing the **layout** of the toys and what the adult will **say** and **do** with the toys.

Before starting

- Assess the child's play skills and find the right level
- Choose toys appropriate to the skills level of the child
- Set up the table/play space, chairs/mats and toys
- Let the child explore the toys

Examples of some kits

This kit contains:

- two toy cars
- four play people.



Script

Put one person on the car and say, 'Man on car'.
Push car along table and say, 'Push car, brm, brm.'
Say, 'Finished.'

Extension

Introduce the other person.
Carry out the previous script.
Drive the car to the other person and stop beside them. Say, 'Stop the car'.
Make the first person get off the car and say, 'Man off car'.
Say, 'Hello friend! Come with me.'
Put people back on car and say, 'Two men in car'.
Push car and say, 'Push car, brm, brm'.
'Finished.'

This kit contains:

- two slides
- two see saws
- two swings
- two families of mum, dad, boy and girl.



This kit contains:

- two dolls
- two bottles
- two dummies
- two bowls with spoons.



Acknowledgement:

Nicky Phillips & Liz Beavan (2007)

Teaching Play to Children with Autism (Sage Publications)

