

ADVICE SHEET

JOINT ATTENTION

Paying attention can be hard work for all of us- we need to develop joint attention to LEARN and listen to our teachers.

Children with ASD can find it hard to focus on objects/subjects that do not interest them- i.e. activities that are shared such as reading a book or playing a game, but they can keep their attention for things they like e.g. lining up cars, an IPAD.

Language may also be a barrier as if people are using too much then children will switch off- we know this for ourselves!!

If they are completely in their own world we need to teach them this skill

THEY CAN LEARN ATTENTION THROUGH PLAY.

Therapies that are used-

- INTENSIVE INTERACTION- where you copy what the child does and then comment on it
- ATTENTION AUTISM- where you do something big and exciting that attracts their attention, with paint or water for e.g.
- PCIT-only responding to them unless they face watch

Ways to do develop joint attention:

- Find a motivating activity/toy
- Encourage eye contact with a person- use name, a toy in their line of sight
- Make it short with a definite end; but try and increase time
- Keep language short- use key words
- Repeat back any attempt of communication
- The child may need to use hand over hand in the first instance

Once they can do this with their favourite activity you can try and introduce other activities and idea of **now** this **next** it's your favourite activity.

