

Attention Autism

Intent

At River View primary School, we use Attention Autism to develop the foundational skills that underpin successful learning. We intend to foster curiosity, engagement, communication and interaction by providing highly motivating, structured experiences that capture children's attention and encourage active participation. Through a progressive and inclusive approach, we support children to develop joint attention, listening, turn-taking, social communication and independence, while building language and vocabulary. By creating opportunities for shared enjoyment and success, we aim to ensure that every child develops the confidence, resilience and engagement needed to access learning and reach their potential.

Implementation

Attention Autism is delivered through a structured sequence of activities across four progressive stages. The following framework outlines the types of activities used within each stage to develop children's attention, engagement, communication and social interaction skills. The examples provided are not exhaustive and should be used flexibly to ensure sessions remain motivating, engaging and appropriately challenging. Activities are adapted to meet individual needs whilst maintaining a clear progression pathway, enabling children to build the skills required to access learning, participate alongside others and prepare for the next stage of their education.

Stage	Purpose	Skills Developed	Example Activities
Stage 1: Attention Focuser (The Bucket)	To capture and sustain children's attention through highly motivating and visually engaging activities.	Looking, listening, shared attention, anticipation, engagement.	Singing Bucket, sensory toys, light-up objects, wind-up toys, pop-up toys, musical instruments, bubbles, puppets, novelty objects, themed Bucket items.
Stage 2: Attention Builder	To encourage children to focus on an adult-led activity for an extended period and share	Sustained attention, joint attention, listening, anticipation,	Balloon rockets, volcano experiments, spinning paint, giant bubble wands, shaving foam play, confetti cannons, colour mixing

	attention with others.	vocabulary development.	experiments, foam explosions, toy launches, sensory science activities.
Stage 3: Interactive Game	To encourage participation and interaction through highly motivating turn-taking activities.	Turn-taking, following instructions, waiting, social interaction, communication.	Beanbag toss, popping bubbles, skittles, target games, parachute activities, throwing games, simple obstacle courses, matching games, ball rolling, treasure hunts.
Stage 4: Individual Activity	To support children to transition from watching and participating with others to completing an activity independently.	Independence, task completion, concentration, following instructions, confidence.	Matching activities, sticker tasks, simple crafts, sorting activities, threading, puzzles, colouring, construction tasks, fine motor activities, simple curriculum-linked activities.

Impact

Children participating in Attention Autism will make progress in their ability to attend, engage, communicate and interact with others. Through consistent delivery of high-quality, sequenced sessions, children will develop increased levels of joint attention, listening, turn-taking and social communication. Progress will be monitored termly using a structured assessment framework, allowing staff to identify achievements and next steps. As children's attention and engagement skills develop, they will demonstrate greater participation in both self-chosen and adult-directed learning opportunities, supporting improved access to the curriculum and preparation for their next stage of education and independence.