

Using Communication Temptations to Motivate Communication

Many children do not need to communicate as everyone in their environment thinks for them, gives them what they want or even anticipates their needs. When you create a communication enriched environment it is VITAL you create as many opportunities as possible for the child to communicate.

In many ways it is immersing the child in a communication abundant environment. This will mean creating as many visuals, schedules, activities and routines as possible to promote communication. The easiest way to do this is look around the environment at home and school, and think of all the times in the day when you could model, promote, encourage or support communication.

Rewards are an important element of communication. Children with an autism spectrum disorder need to understand the functionality of communication and have a motivator to communicate. In the early stages of developing communication the activity should always be rewarding. So always remember to make activities fun, fast and rewarding.

Activities that are particularly desirable or intriguing for your child are more likely to 'tempt' him, or provide him with sufficient motivation, to communicate with another person. Encourage verbal children to speak, and non-verbal children to use visuals/symbols/words to communicate.

Some ideas to tempt your child:

- Bubbles.
- Balloons.
- Thomas, Bob the Builder, The Wiggles or whatever your child loves.
- Put desirable items out of your child's reach so that they are encouraged to ask for them.
- Swinging. 'Ready, set, go!' and 'One, two, three, go!' games.
- Put toys into clear plastic containers that your child is unable to open.
- SLOW down, wait at the door before you open it, allow your child an opportunity to say "Open" or "Open door."
- Favourite DVDs, Videos.

12 Ideas to Provide Opportunities to Communicate

1. Give container with lid on too tight so the child needs to ask for "HELP".
2. When turning tap on/off, say "ON/OFF". Wait for them to say.
3. Count wherever possible, e.g. toys when packing away, children, etc.
4. Sing songs when doing activities ("Everybody finish" etc).
5. Give activity with a part missing so they need to ask for "HELP".
6. Remove plug from power for computer or DVD player, then they need to ask for "HELP".
7. Eat food (they like) in front of child and don't give to them any until they request a taste.
8. Wherever possible don't anticipate their communication. Wait for them to communicate first, rather than pre guessing their needs (e.g. hands dirty, want to wash, wait for them to look at you, and indicate want of help, etc).
9. Put favourite toy into a container. Have the child request "OPEN".
10. Have the child on your knee, drop them back and have them request "UP".
11. Give the child tickles, bubbles, etc and have them request "MORE".
12. Sing the child's favourite song and have them request "AGAIN".

NEW Book: Motivate to Communicate

Motivate to Communicate by Simone Griffin and Dianne Sandler is a great new book which has 300 games and activities to motivate a child with autism spectrum to communicate. It includes games and activities with food, toys, social games, outside games and home and school.

The book suggests creative ways to use everyday toys and objects. For example, if your child likes to pop bubbles, perhaps he would also enjoy counting bubbles, catching bubbles on a wand, stomping them with his feet or even playing bubble volleyball. The innovative ideas in this book are designed to be fun for both the adult and the child. All of the resources mentioned in the book are readily available and can be used to advance communication skills at all levels, from reaching out for an item, to extending verbal communication.

Motivate to Communicate is a perfect companion book to *Practical Communication Programmes* to help parents and professionals develop communication skills in children with an ASD.

Communication Resources

Motivate to Communicate: By Simone Griffin and Dianne Sandler

This practical resource is brimming with exciting ideas and guidance for motivating children with autism and other communication difficulties. The clear, user-friendly format enables quick access to over 300 practical, fun-filled games and activities for developing your child's communication skills.

CODE B73 \$35 (incl P & H)

Practical Communication Programmes: By Jo Adkins and Sue Larkey

Communication is the biggest area of skill deficits in nearly all children on the autism spectrum – whether it is little to no verbalisation, social skills or simply understanding spoken language. This book offers hundreds of ideas and strategies to improve communication skills – including picture exchange, teaching literacy skills, and emotions. It includes activities and resources you can photocopy.

CODE B19 \$45 (incl P & H)

