**Attention Autism**

**Attention Autism** is an intervention model designed by Gina Davies, Specialist Speech and Language Therapist. It aims to develop natural and spontaneous communication through the use of visually based and highly motivating activities. Gina’s primary objective is that the sessions are fun and “offer an irresistible invitation to learn”!

**The principle:**

**Stage 1:**

Fill a box/bucket with toys and objects that are engaging for your child.

Sing the song ‘I’ve got something in my box, in my box, in my box. I’ve got something in my box, I wonder what it is….’

Bring out 1 toy/object from the box, showing your child what the toy does. Focus all your attention on the object as well to encourage the shared engagement and make the toy/object seem like the most exciting thing you have seen! Repeat this process with up to 4 toys.

**Important:** The activity is quick – no longer than 5 minutes. The aim is to build engagement, concentration, interest and anticipation.

**Stage 2:**

This is a slightly messier stage to Attention Autism, but just like in stage 1 the child continues to just watch.

Talk your child through each process that you are doing, carrying out each stage with as much enthusiasm as possible!

To get a better idea as to what Attention Autism entails see activities on HWB, our class page (Rhosyn) or you can search Attention Autism on Youtube.

**Ideas for resources for your box:**

* Balloons (these are also great to develop number skills by counting each time you blow up the balloon).
* Wind up toys
* Noisy toys
* Anything that moves!
* Instruments
* Bubbles
* Jack in the box

**Ideas for stage 2 activities:**

**Glitter Tea cups** – Shaving foam cakes, spray food colour, pebble on top for cherry and SPLAT!

**Sand storm** – Have a bucket or container with coloured sand in and let it pour into a container.

**Foam Squish** – Have a large ziplock bag and spray in shaving foam. Then add different colour paint and mix them together between your hands.

**Space Splat** – Pour water into shot glasses and add some food colouring. Dip cotton wool into the water and throw them onto white paper!

**Growing flowers** – Place a flower pot down on its side and then get some green paint and squeeze it to make the flower stem grow! Then at the top place a fake flower or some tissue tied to make a flower!

**Stacking Cups** – Use the paper cups and stack them up counting out to 10 and then say ‘ready steady GO’ and knock them down!

**Bubble Sock** - Have an bottle ready made with the end cut off, attach a j-cloth to the cut end with an elastic band then dip this part into soapy water and blow through the top of the bottle to make the bubbles come out!

**Tapioca tumble**- Slowly fill a long clear plastic tube with rice/any dried beans or peas or lentils etc. Use a small plastic shot glass to fill it up. When full, slowly tip into large black tray from a height. Variations: putting things in tray e.g. xylophone, scrumpled parchment, drum, biscuit tins etc. **Lemonade Fountain** - Large black tray. Open lemonade bottle and pour some food colouring inside-watch it swirl down. Pour in another colour and watch them mix. Put the lid back on firmly, shake well. Count 1..2...3...and open it- “Lemonade fountain!”.

**Spring Showers** - Spread shower curtain on floor. Pour water into two clear bottles, add blue and green food colouring to each, and pour each one into watering can and water all over the shower curtain, (“It’s RAINING”!). Leaves cut from tissue paper- throw them up in the air (“Spring Showers!”)

**Singing in the Rain**- shower curtain on floor. Pour water in bottle, add blue food colouring, pour into watering can. Pour watering can of water over umbrella while singing “singing in the rain”.

**Moving Blobs**- half fill a large (2l) clear bottle with water. Fill almost to the top with oil (use funnel). Let them separate. Add drops of food colouring and let them sink through the oil to mix with the water. Add pieces of Alka-Seltzer to start the coloured blobs moving through the oil.

**Wacky races** – Have 3 different coloured pains and three wind-up toys on some black paper. Put a blob of paint for each toy and let the toy go through the paint and see who goes the furthest!

**Make a face -** Put ribbons down on the paper and make the shape of the face, throw feathers on to make some hair, rip and scrunch green/blue/brown paper for 2 eyes, scrunch red paper for the nose, put red ribbon for a mouth and make a happy face!

**Car splat** - Squirt paint onto a large piece of paper and then roll the car through the paint and say ‘brrrrr’’ or ‘zoom’!

**Squirty butterfly -** Add paint to a cup, add water and mix it. Put a syringe in each paint pot and suck up the paint in the air and say the colour. Squirt the paint slowly into a butterfly shape, switch colour and add some patter. Fold the paper in half and reveal the butterfly say ‘Butterfly!!’

**Feather race -** Lay out black material/paper. Make a start line out of glitter. Line up the feathers and say ‘On your marks, get set, GO!’ Blow the feathers through a straw to the finish line and celebrate!

* Pinterest is a fantastic resource for ideas for stage 2 attention autism (it will come up with ideas if you type in attention autism stage 2).
* Youtube