

Hidden Learning and Language Opportunities For Young children with ASD

Mealtime - Do not give the child everything s/he needs. (i.e. Give them cereal with no spoon. Cereal with no milk or only a tiny amount of a food you know they like so they can request more)

Outside Time - Wait by the door. DO NOT open the door until the child requests "open." Push child on the swing or on the trike/wagon. Stop wait for child to request to go again.

Music/Movie Video - Wait for child to request "on," after a few minutes turn it off, or turn volume down to build in another opportunity for language.

Container Play - (i.e, bubbles, play-doh blocks, etc), Give child the container and Say... "Let's play." DO NOT open container until child requests. Control how much you give child in order to build in more language opportunities.

Snacks - Put favorite snacks in closed container, out of child's reach. Have child request his snack. Have child make a choice from two snacks. Control how much you give to build in more opportunities to request more.

Bath Time - Have the child request "on" to turn the water on. Have favorite bath toys in container and have them request to throw each toy in as the tub fills up.

Singing Games - Sing favorite songs ... stop suddenly to see if child will attempt to fill in the blank. Stop ... sees if child will request for you to continue song/game.

Story Time - Have the child request to turn the page. Pretend to talk to characters in the book ("stop," "no, no," "night-night") Point to and label pictures ...then point and ask child "What's that?"

Play Time - Join child in the activity they are playing with... Carefully gain control of the toy they are having fun with and present an opportunity (i.e. "tell car go," beep-beep," "tell baby bye-bye").

Car-rides - Have child vocalize to get out of car-seat. Play the "I see _____ game".

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