



# ATTENTION AUTISM

A programme developed by the Gina Davies Autism Centre

# WHAT IS

# ATTENTION AUTISM?

*Attention Autism is a 4-stage programme that 'offers the child an irresistible invitation to learn' (Gina Davies, founder). The programme focuses on teaching and developing attention, communication and social interaction skills. Once children are familiar with the expectations and structure of the programme, it can be used to teach all areas of the curriculum in an engaging and highly motivating way that draws on shared moments.*

*We will focus on stages 1, 2 and 3 in this pack.*

**CLICK HERE TO VISIT GINA DAVIES' WEBSITE.**



**CLICK HERE TO VISIT GINA DAVIES' YOUTUBE CHANNEL.**

# THE CURIOSITY

# PROGRAMME

*This programme can work as an excellent preparation for children who might go on and work through the Attention Autism 4 stage programme but need a more individualised start.*

*This will help to create the foundation needed to access Attention Autism.*



**CLICK HERE FOR MORE  
INFORMATION ABOUT THE  
CURIOSITY PROGRAMME**

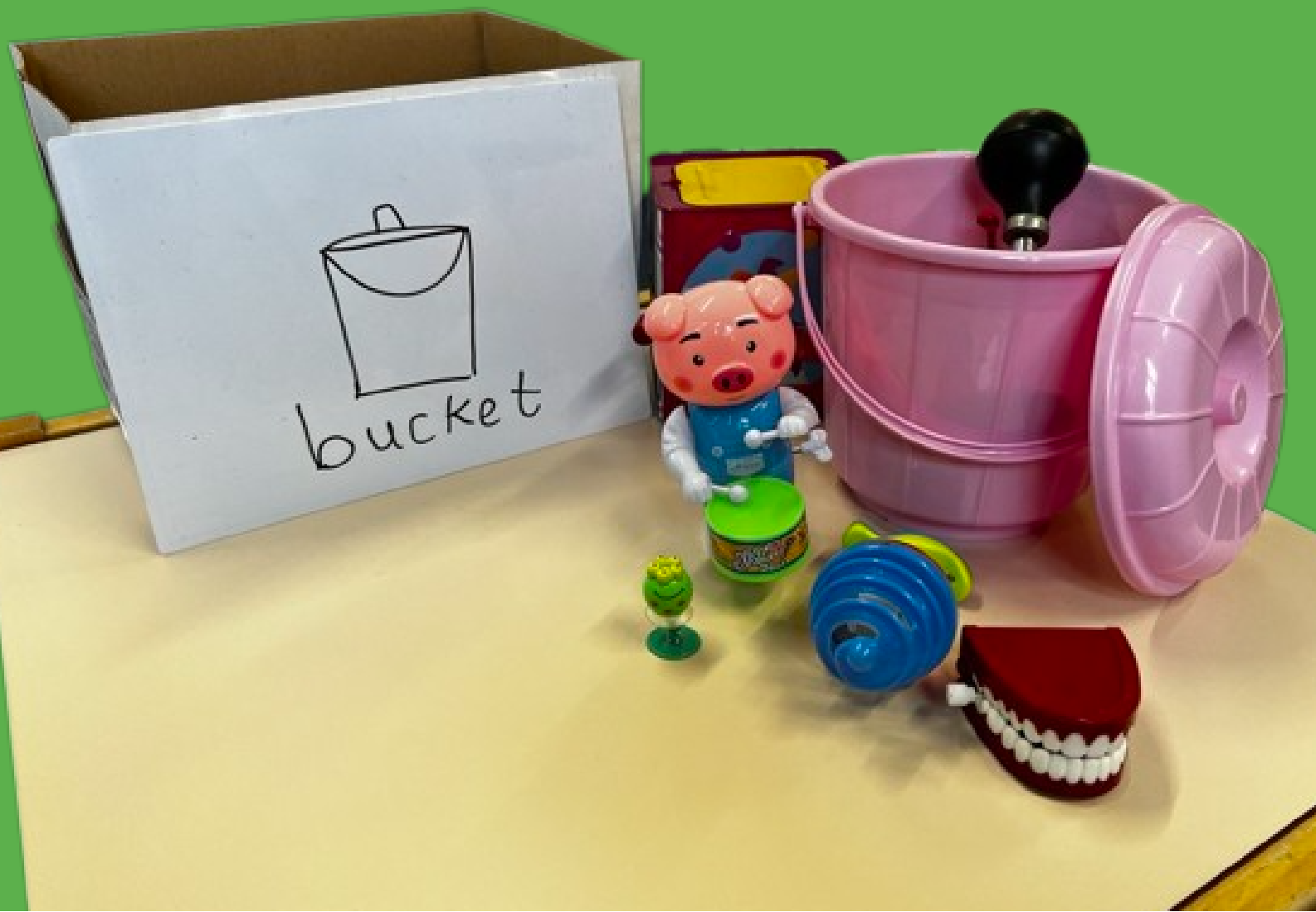
# STAGE

# 1

## The Bucket

Children learn to focus their attention on an adult-led activity

Click [here](#) for links to buy equipment to fill your bucket



# STAGE

# 1

continued...

## WHAT TO DO

- Find a quiet space – you may need to put up a barrier to separate off a distraction free area
- Try to avoid waiting for everybody to be ready if you've got most of the children sat waiting
- Do sing! [Click here to watch a video demonstration of Stage 1](#)
- Do the bucket more than once a week
- Do use anything to keep your objects in (bag, box, bucket etc)
- Do sit at least 1 metre plus away from the children - children to sit in a horseshoe shape
- Get everyone in the room on board – all adults should be engaging with enthusiasm to attract the children's attention
- Do sit on the floor
- Do write and draw on a whiteboard - write/ draw FIRST then speak
- Do invest in the toys/ objects like you think they are amazing! Focus on the object in front of you- children are to look at you interacting with the object
- Do say "Mrs Houghton's bucket" if children try to get to your toys (support staff show back to seat) - remember to leave space between you and the children
- Do fill your bucket with objects that will be relevant and meaningful to your audience's developmental stage. This can be done with older people!
- Do allow time and persevere! It really does work and is fabulous!

## WHAT NOT TO DO

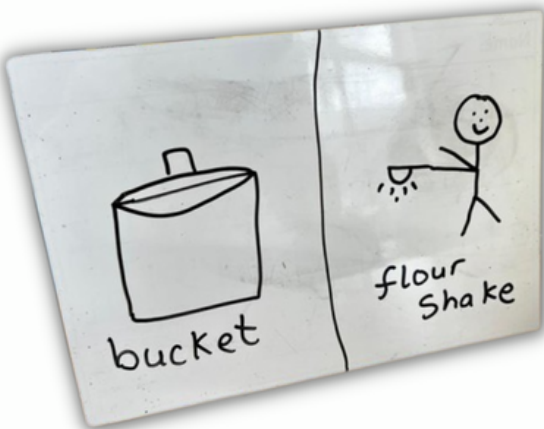
- Don't bang on the bucket
- Don't ignore children's communication/ language – use your thinking out loud to acknowledge
- Don't have a table in front of you
- Don't go closer to children to show toys - they are not to touch. They are to look/engage at what you are looking at/ doing (unless invited for a turn- stage 3)
- Don't use visuals to sit/ quiet etc - encourage support staff to look at you to support children to look at you (model engagement/ good sitting)

# STAGE

# 2

## The Attention Builder

Children learn to sustain their attention on an adult-led activity



## WHAT TO DO

- Do build up the stages and each time you do Attention Autism do all the stages you have built up e.g. if you are doing stage 1 and 2, these need to be done every time
- Do be organised - stage 2/3 activities in trays
- Do name your equipment as you set the activity up e.g. say "black paper" when you get the black paper out
- Do keep language simple - and repeat etc "shake, shake" etc
- Do leave a gap for children to communicate/process
- Do have a clear start, middle and end to the activity
- After each stage, draw a cross through the picture on your whiteboard and say "finished"
- Use simple repetitive language to make comments, rather than asking questions
- Do use body language/ gesture/ voice
- It's okay when things go wrong, say things like "oh dear, try again"
- Do make a mess. At the end of each activity you tidy everything away

Click [here](#) for Stage 2 activity ideas

Click [here](#) to watch a demonstration of Stage 2

# STAGE

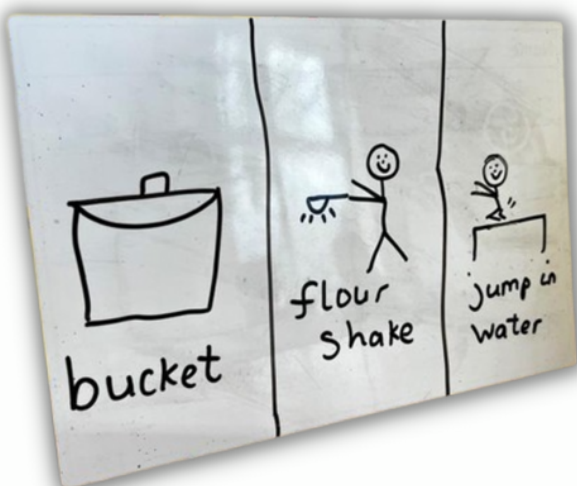
# 3

## The Interactive Game: Turn Taking & Shifting Attention

Children learn to shift their attention within a small group as they take turns in a game

### WHAT TO DO

- Demonstrate the activity first, invite another member of staff within the group to have a turn
- When inviting pupils to take their turn, offer a 'palm up' gesture as a visual support to guide them to the front of the classroom
- During Stage 3, you need to sing a song within the activity



- Do think out loud e.g. “Running out of time, no more turns” etc. Not everyone will get to take their turn every time
- Do use your whiteboard/a supporting visual to transition away from Attention Autism

Click [here](#) for Stage 3 activity ideas

Click [here](#) to watch a demonstration of Stage 3