



Social Communication: Joint Attention 1a [JA1a]

Child responds to another person giving objects just to share interest in the object

Purpose

- To encourage your child to look at and notice an object that you are giving to him/her and/or to look at you.

Description

This occurs when another person gives an object to the child for the purpose of sharing interest in the object, and s/he willingly accepts the object, looks at the other person, and looks at the object. Responding to another person giving an object to share shows that the child is beginning to understand that s/he can share interest with another person about an object through eye contact and gazing at the object.

- Someone picks something out of the surprise bag, and says “Look”, while handing the object to the child. The child accepts the object and looks at it.
- While making items with play-dough, the teacher rolls a snake, says “I made a snake” and gives it to the child. The child takes the snake and looks at it.

Activities

- *Playtime – blocks:* Spend a few minutes stacking blocks together with your child. Select a block that is a little different, possibly in color or shape. Then hold that block in your hand and extend your hand to your child. Once your child looks at you or the block, offer the block to your child



- *Bath Time:* You can use bath toys to work on this skill. Select a toy and hold it in your hand and extend your hand to your child. When your child looks at you or the toy, offer it to your child.
- *Outside:* There are many objects in nature that are interesting to children. If you are outside playing with your child or taking a walk with your child, you can use objects from nature to work on this goal. For example, pick up a pretty or interesting leaf and hold it out to your child as you comment on what makes the leaf interesting or pretty. If your child does not look at you or the leaf, wait a few seconds before offering the leaf. Build on your child's interests – for example, if your child likes different colors, show him or her two leaves that are different in color. Or if your child likes counting, show your child one leaf, then add a second leaf and a third leaf as you count the leaves.
- *Shopping:* While shopping, remove an item from the shelf that your child would find interesting (e.g., toy, book) and hold it out to him/her. Once your child looks at you or the item in hand, offer the item to your child.

Strategies

- *Accompany my communications with intonation, pointing, and non-verbal gestures* – add extra emphasis with sounds, facial expressions, and gestures when giving your child something to share interest
- *Be animated* – be loud and silly when giving something to your child
- *Consider what your child likes to do/follow my child's lead* – select objects that are likely to attract your child's interest

Suggested Toys

- Bath toys/boats
- Flowers
- Books
- Toy foods
- Dolls/action figures

Goal Mastery

An ASAP Goal is mastered if your child meets ALL of the following criteria:

- Shows the skill at least three times
- Shows the skill during different activities or in different settings such as during snack time, during playtime, or at the grocery store.
- Shows the skill with minimal help or support from an adult