



Social Communication: Joint Attention 2a [JA2a]

Child responds to another person showing objects just to share interest in the objects

Purpose

- To teach your child to look at and share interest in an interesting object that you are showing to him/her and then look at you.

Description

This occurs when another person shows an object to the child for the purpose of sharing interest in the object, and the child looks at the object and the other person. Responding to another person showing an object to share the object shows the child is furthering his/her understanding of sharing interest with others about objects.

- While in the reading area, a peer says look, and shows the child a book. The child looks at the book.
- Another person shows a picture that s/he drew, and the child looks at the picture.

Activities

- *Dressing:* Before helping your child put on a piece of clothing, hold it up and say something about the clothing. For example, say “Look at this alligator on your shirt!” Wait to see if your child will look at the alligator on the shirt and look at you. You can use various pieces of clothing to practice this skill as you help your child get dressed, if there is some aspect of the clothing that holds some interest for your child (e.g., colors, letters on tags, logos).
- *Shopping:* While shopping at the grocery store, pick up a piece of food and show it to your child while commenting about the food. For example, say “Look at this giant apple!” Wait



to see if your child will look at the apple and look at you. Try to find items that you think will be interesting to your child, such as boxes or cans with interesting pictures on them.

- *Playtime:* Use a bag to put some toys or other interesting objects (funny kitchen gadgets). Pull them out one by one and show them to your child. You can name them or just say, “Look at this!” Be silly and use some suspense when you pull them out (e.g., “Ooh, what is next?”).

Strategies

- *Accompany your communications with intonation, pointing, and non-verbal gestures* – add extra emphasis on sounds, faces, and gestures when showing your child something to share interest
- *Be animated* – be loud and silly when showing something to your child
- *Consider what your child likes* – select objects that are likely to attract your child’s interest

Suggested Toys

- Dress up clothes
- Kitchen toys
- Books
- Transportation toys
- Blocks

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