



Social Communication: Joint Attention 2b [JA2b]

Child shows objects just to share interest in the objects with another person

Purpose

- To teach your child to share an object with you and other people with the purpose of showing you how interesting the object is.

Description

This occurs when the child shows an object of interest to another person for the purpose of sharing the object, and the child looks at the other person and the object while showing the object. Showing objects to another person shows the child is beginning to understand that s/he can initiate engagement about an object of interest through the gesture of showing.

- The child builds a car out of Legos® and shows the car to a peer to share what s/he has made
- The child finishes an art project and shows it to his teacher

Activities

- *Playtime:* When your child is playing, say, “What are you playing with?” Encourage your child to hold up the object that s/he is playing with so you can see it. Comment on something interesting, “That car looks fast!” smile, and let your child continue to play for a little longer before you encourage him/her to show you another object or to show it to someone else.
- *Outside Time:* If you see your child exploring an item, say, “What is it?” Even if your child can’t tell you with words, encourage him/her to show you the object by holding it up



where you can see it. When your child shows you the object, comment about it, “That flower smells good!”

- *Playtime:* Grab bag game - Fill a bag with fun objects or toys. Take turns with your child in pulling things out of the bag. On your turn, take an item out of the bag and show it to your child, with a comment (for example, “Wow, look at this wiggly worm!”). Then encourage your child to pull out an item out of the bag and show it to you (and/or others). The first few times, you may need to help your child show them to others. Then use some “wait time” to encourage the child to do it on their own.
- *Reading/Book Activities:* If your child is reading a book, sit beside him or her, and then comment and ask about the book your child is reading. Encourage your child to show you the book as he or she is reading.

Strategies

- *Follow your child’s lead* – pay attention to what your child is playing with, comment, and join in on his/her play. This may encourage your child to show you one of his/her toys.
- *Wait with anticipation* – make facial expressions and gestures (for instance, hold your hand out) to show your child that you’re waiting for them to show you something
- *Imitate your child’s actions and communications* – imitating what your child is doing may draw his/her attention to you and encourage him/her to show you something
- *Give your child a model* – show interesting objects to your child (as for Joint Attention Goal 2a) as you interact
- *Use follow-in directives* – using your child’s interests and/or items your child is playing with, direct your child to show items to you and/or another person

Suggested Toys

- Goopy slime
- Books
- Spinning toys
- Wind-up toys
- 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