



Social Communication: Joint Attention 3a [JA3a]

**Child follows a point to nearby
object/events just to share
interest in objects/events**

Purpose

- To teach your child to follow your point by looking at an object that is within reach and to help him/her to pay attention to an object with

Description

This occurs when another person points to an object that is within reach, and the child follows the other person's point to the nearby object and looks at the other person. Following a near point shows the child is beginning to understand that pointing references nearby objects, and can be a method for sharing interest in objects.

- While walking through the hallway, the teacher points at a new picture on the wall, and the child looks at the picture
- A peer points at another peer's dog puppet in the drama area to comment on the puppet, and the child looks at the puppet

Activities

- *Story Time:* At home, or at the library, while reading a book to your child, comment and point to what you see in the picture. For example, if you're reading a story about animals, point to an animal and say, "See the cow; he's eating grass." Watch your child to see if s/he looks at the picture where you pointed.
- *Coloring/Art/Drawing:* Use a small box of 8 crayons. Take the crayons out of the box then point to the crayons one at a time while naming the color of each crayon. For example,



“Here’s the red crayon.” This activity will also help your child learn the correct names for each color. However, if your child is not interested in colors, you might be able to use another interest – for example, if your child is interested in shapes, you can use a crayon to draw a shape, point to the shape and say, “Look, I made a circle!”

- *Playtime/Bath Time:* Use any items that are interesting to your child (cars, blocks, teddy bears, trains, or books). Line up several items then point to each item while counting. For example, line up 10 blocks. Point to the first block and say, “one,” then point to the second block and say, “two,” until you have touched and counted all 10 blocks. Encourage your child to count with you and to look at the blocks.
- *Out and About:* While you and your child are out shopping or on family outings, point to interesting objects and events and label them with exaggeration to try to draw your child’s attention to them.

Strategies

- *Accompany your communication with intonation, pointing, and non-verbal gestures* –add extra emphasis with sounds, facial expressions, and gestures when pointing something out to your child to share interest
- *Be animated* – be loud and silly when pointing to something for your child to look at
- *Reward your child* – whether it is giving the child the object that you pointed out or having the child participate in the event (for example, getting picked up by grandpa) and exaggerate your response (“yes! GRANDPA is here!”)
- *Consider what your child likes* – select objects that are likely to attract your child’s interest

Suggested Toys

- Books
- Craft supplies
- Blocks
- Puppets
- Play dough

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