

General Programming Strategies for a Child with Autism/P.D.D.

When Interacting with a Child:

1. Sit at the child's eye level.
2. Touch the child on the arm occasionally to refocus their attention.
3. Say the child's name, occasionally, throughout the task.
4. Use 2-3 word sentences and focus on task-related or important words.
i.e. "Ahmed, roll ball."
5. Continue to comment, label the child's activities (and those of the other children around him/her.)
6. Be positive. Emphasize the child's strengths and reinforce all of his/her efforts.
i.e. "Gevon, great puzzle making."
7. Reinforce the child's communication by repeating what he/she says and then expand on it.
i.e. child: "cah go"
adult: "car go"
adult: "red car go"
8. When your child consistently repeats what you say (parrots / mimics,) this is called "echolalic speech," or "echolalia."
i.e. adult: "Do you want more juice?"
child: "Do you want more juice?"
 - a) Use simple phrases which sound appropriate when repeated.
i.e. adult: "Want juice?"
child: "Want juice."
 - b) Ignore delayed echolalia.
9. Exaggerate your facial expressions (wide eyes, raise eyebrows.)
10. Use body cues (pointing, hand motions.)
11. Use objects or pictures when they are available.
- 12. Have fun.**