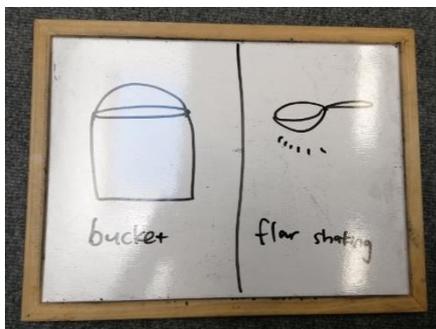


## Attention Autism

Attention Autism is an approach your child will have seen in school. It focuses on using highly exciting and motivating items and there are different stages. It was created by a speech and language therapist called Gina Davies – she has posted lots of you tube videos both explaining the strategies and also of sessions for you to watch with your child.

Your child must be able to cope at each stage before they move on to the next stage, ie they must be able to successfully sit through Stage 1 on its own before you try Stage 1 followed by Stage 2, or be able to sit through both Stage 1 and Stage 2 before you add on Stage 3. Each stage is added on so sessions get gradually longer.

A whiteboard is used as a visual timetable although if you don't have a whiteboard you could use a pen and paper at home. Whiteboards and drawing can be helpful in explaining what is happening to your child generally as well as within Attention Autism.



Here are some videos explaining the use of a whiteboard – Attention Autism Strategies Video 1 and 2. You will need to watch them in order.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3\\_iGTLToK3U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3_iGTLToK3U)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mTV8VHFdUAY>

### Stage 1 : bucket/box

Sing the bucket song then take out several exciting things from the box or bucket one at a time. Use simple language to talk about items and what they do. Some toys that work well are:

- flashing, spinning toys
- wind up toys
- balloons
- water spray
- Toys that shake and move
- Toys that make a noise



Here are some videos explaining the use of the bucket – Attention Autism Strategy Video 3 and Stage 1 at home....a cool bag!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uMOHFFtcQA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WT7msMObYqs>

This video explains what to do if you have problems with your child wanting the toys at home. Attention Autism Strategy Video 5.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gRqDVHqG75o>

### Stage 2: attention builder

This is an adult led task which is so engaging children can focus on it for a few minutes at a time. It is visual and colourful and usually involves cause and effect—something changes into something else. We talk about what we are doing using simple language and signs. The adult is in charge of the activity but the children can help by asking for more, choosing what to do next or describing what is happening.

Activities are usually messy—but it doesn't matter—the more mess the better

#### Ideas include:

- making a splat picture with paint and rice
- making shaving foam heads by forcing foam through the holes in a flower pot
- making fizzy potions in a bowl with different colours and smells (try water and effervescent vitamin c tablets or food colouring )
- making 'flour castles' in small pots using flour and glitter, then splatting them
- shaking flour onto black paper and then drawing in it



### Stage 3 : interactive game

This is when children get to take a turn in an activity. This activity helps turn taking and moving between activities independently. An adult will use another adult to demonstrate the activity and then children take a turn, one at a time. At home you could ask siblings or other family members to join in with activities.

#### Ideas include:

- **Raining on you** - Pupils have a turn holding a clear umbrella while and pour water over them from a watering can. Water is poured at the front of the umbrella so pupils can see what is happening. We sing a song about rain while we pour the water.
- **Wrap you up like a sausage roll** - Each child takes it in turns to be rolled inside a blanket and then unrolled. We sing a song as a child has their turn e.g. to the tune of row your boat, 'wrap wrap wrap you up like a sausage roll'.
- **Standing on the stool** - Each child takes it in turns to stand on a stool. We say a rhyme as a child has their turn eg 'standing on the stool, standing on the stool, 1,2,3, jump off.



This video explains what adults do during a session and how you could support your child if you watch the sessions together online – Attention Autism Strategy Video 4.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hkrjx1uAF5w>

**These are some videos which you can watch with your child at home:**

Stage 1 Easter Egg and Stage 1 It's all about spinning

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UseWVqG82Bs>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jamZK5xg0po>

These videos are other videos to watch but are related to Coronavirus and things your child may be seeing - Attention Autism suggestions for a Stage 1 with Coronavirus in mind, Attention Autism Session (social distancing), Attention Autism Session Stage 1 and 2 Coughing, Attention Autism Stage 1 Box and Stage 2 Staying at Home.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h2Xw4tQwwzo>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YsfbctDeF\\_Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YsfbctDeF_Y)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sl2E6i6BWrl>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BVx1fzt3F14>

This video explains how you could use some of the ideas of attention autism throughout the day at home. Attention Autism Strategy Video 6.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1SBbofzKNxM>

There will be more videos going up on the Gina Davies Autism Centre Facebook and YouTube pages in the coming days so please keep checking for more videos to watch with your child.