

Attention Autism: Stage 2 – Attention Builder

The aims of the session are the same aims as stage one plus:

- To help the children build longer, more sustained attention

Resources needed:

- A pen and small whiteboard
- Everything from stage one (Attention Bucket)
- A planned 'stage 2' activity. See the end of this document for suggestions
- A shower curtain, large tray, or disposable sheet

How to run a session:

- As before - children to be sitting in a semi-circle around the leading adults (with adults between children where possible), start with a hello song to get the children's attention and engage them
- Make eye-contact with all the children whilst showing them a blank whiteboard. Split the board down the middle: First: Bucket , Then: Name of stage 2 activity. Draw a simple picture to represent each.
- Run the attention bucket as detailed in previous document
- Make it clear the attention bucket has finished by saying 'Bucket finished, now [name of stage 2 activity]'. Cross out the bucket on the white board and put the bucket out of sight.
- When running the stage 2 activity, the child needs to be present for the entirety of the activity (including the setting up and tidying up of the activity)
- Use simple language to narrate what you are doing. You could put your resources in clip top box, then put the box in front of you and label 'box' then 'open' and label each of the items as you take them out of the box.
- Put all items from the box in front of the box so the children can see them and then move the box out of the way
- This section needs to be just as enthusiastic and expressive as the first to keep the children engaged!
- There are a vast number of activities which could be run as part of this section. See below for a few ideas and variations on these ideas.
- Once the activity has finished, tidy up as much as possible (it may be not possible to entirely tidy up as some of the activities are messy)
- Make sure it is clear the activity is not finished until the items go back in the box, then say 'finished'; tidying up is an important part of an activity and it is important for the children to learn this.
- Once everything is away and back in the box then you can tell the children the activity has 'finished' and cross through the picture on the whiteboard.

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Alternative one</u>	<u>Alternative two</u>	<u>Alternative three</u>	<u>Alternative four</u>	<u>Alternative five</u>
Bubble worms: Get a bottle and cut the bottom off and cover with gauze. Dip into bubble mix and blow bubbles through bottles.	Colour the bubble mixture to make different colour bubbles	Use bigger or smaller bottles	Use wider/narrower gauze	Cut holes in the sides of the bottles so the bubble worms come out the side of the bottle	Put food colouring in mini spray bottles and spray colour onto the worm
Shaving foam castles: In a tray or on the floor if outside use shaving foam to make a swirl of foam. Using a fly swat hit the foam 'castle' so it splatters. Can use 'Ready, steady go' to encourage anticipation	Spray food colour/paint on the foam castles before splatting them	Sprinkle glitter or coloured sand onto the foam castle	Use your hand to swat the foam castles – this can get messy!	Rather than using a fly swat use a watering can/ cup of water – may be better for outside	Can use a shower foam/children's coloured foam for variety of texture/smell
Vinegar Volcanoes: Using shot glasses pour normal distilled vinegar about 2cm from the top (to be done on a tray if inside), put a teaspoon of bicarbonate of soda in the cup and watch it erupt.	Colour the distilled vinegar to make all different coloured eruptions	Use big cups as opposed to shot glasses (this will obviously use much more vinegar)	Use a bottle for the reaction putting a balloon over the top, the gas will make the balloon blow up	Put a teaspoon of bicarbonate into the shot glasses and use a pipette to shoot some vinegar/coloured vinegar in.	Mix bicarb with some water (and colouring) and freeze overnight into ice cubes, then add vinegar and watch them fizz.
Flour Drawing: Hold a sieve full of flour up high and sprinkle this onto black paper. Once you have covered the black paper in flour use your finger to draw a simple picture i.e. a smiley face/flower/shapes – can link this to the curriculum too.	Use a variety of different coloured papers underneath the flour	Sprinkle coloured sand onto the black paper	Use different sieve/coloured colander to sprinkle the flour with	Use something other than your finger to draw into the flour i.e. a paintbrush. Can vary the size of this paintbrush	Could use a coloured shower curtain rather than paper to do a very large version of this.
Lentil Slide: Have 4/5 shot glasses full of dried lentil/split peas. Pour these down a 'talking tube' if available or another long tube (needs to be something the lentils will make a noise with). If possible create	Use different dried materials i.e. lentils, rice, yellow split peas	Use different tubes to make different noises, different length tubes etc.	Normally you would get the lentils to land into a box but if outside could always get them to go	Create a slide for the lentils to go down rather than a tube i.e. have a sheet of paper which you would curl	Mix glitter or coloured sand in with the lentils

a twist in the tube so the lentils get stuck to help create anticipation			straight onto the floor and bounce	up at the sides and pour the lentils down	
Water Drawing: using a watering can pour water onto a surface to create a picture or make part of a story	Use a watering can with a fine nozzle to draw a picture onto the path outside	Colour the water and then this can be used either onto the floor or on a shower curtain outside	Use a clear shower curtain and cover with plastic/waterproof flowers and pour water over these- could sing a song too	Use a sprinkle end on the watering can instead of a spout to get the water to spread further, though this may be harder to draw a picture	Use syringes or paintbrushes with plain or coloured water to 'draw' directly onto the floor outside
Squirly Butterfly: Mix two different colours of paint with water. Put one syringe in cup of paint, squirt a bit into air and name colour. Create outline of half butterfly. Repeat with the other colour but create pattern in same half. Fold paper/shower curtain in half to create butterfly then show children	Use more than two colours and name them for the children- could link with curriculum	Create a different symmetrical pattern that is not a butterfly	Use paper (different colours) or a shower curtain as a background	Use a paintbrush, sponge or your finger rather than a syringe to paint the picture	Can use hand/footprint to create a picture and then fold paper in half
Fireworks in a glass: Half fill a large glass with warm water. In a separate bowl put some olive oil with a few drops of different food colourings. Pour the oil mixture in and use a fork to stir and create patterns in the glass	Use a large clear bucket- this will need much more oil	Add glitter to the oil mixture to create glitter in the fireworks	Use a clear tray and do this on the flat to allow the children a better view- does not work as well as in a glass	Use a narrow glass and a long stirring implement and stir fast to create a water twister in the middle of the glass	Use oil mixed with one colour vs a number of different coloured oils
Flower pot shooters: Get two identical cups/flower pots that stack. Make sure one has an intact bottom and one has a hole in it. Turn one cup (without holes) upside down and put a pile of shaving	Use spray food colouring and spray the foam before putting	Use a variety of size cups or pots. From shot glasses, to plastic pint cups. Plastic cups are	Do this outside and the pot/cup can be pushed on hard and fast and the shaving	Can do this in the dark and mix some glow in the dark liquid into the	Can use pre-coloured foam (i.e. children's shower foam) instead

foam on the top. Then put the other cup/pot on top of it very quickly and the shaving foam will shoot out the top	the other pot on top.	easier to make holes in than flower pots	foam will shoot really high into the sky	foam once it is on top of the flower pot	
Paint Splat: Put a number of cotton rounds on a piece of paper and put a blob of paint in the middle. Cover with another cotton round. Using a plastic/toy hammer hit the cotton round and this will make the paint splat out from underneath	Can use all the same colour paint or a number of different colour paints	Can back this onto a number of different coloured papers	Can make this comical by using a large blow up hammer	Rather than hitting the cotton rounds, dip them in paint and use them to create a pattern on the paper	Use different materials to put paint in between i.e. shapes of paper etc.
Soda Eruptions: Needs to be done outside! Stand the Diet Coke upright, put some sort of funnel or tube on top so you can drop the Mentos in at the same time (half the pack) Drop the Mentos into the Diet Coke and run! Coke will shoot out the top.	Start with bottles of lemonade and colour these as part of the activity. i.e. red, amber and green	Can use a number of different fizzy drinks that are already coloured i.e. limeade, cherryade etc. Diet coke works best	Have more than one bottle (two is a good idea- one for each hand) and create reactions at the same time	Can use small bottles of diet coke and create a 'chain reaction' one after another	Create a cone to go on top of the bottle so it shoots up like a rocket when being pushed up by the coke
Tie dye milk: Pour a layer of room temperature milk in a shallow dish and put four blobs of food colouring in opposite corners of the dish. Put a blob of fairy liquid in the middle (avoid putting it straight onto the food colouring) and watch the reaction	Use a number of different shaped shallow dishes/trays	Use syringe/turkey baster to squirt the milk into the dish initially	Rather than dropping fairy liquid in, dip a cotton bud in fairy liq. and hold in the middle of dish- this creates the same reaction	<< If doing it this way, can have a number of cotton buds (one in each hand) and dip into the dish in 2 separate places.	Colour the milk in advance so the milk already has a colour to it before adding drops of other colours
'Champagne' Fountain: Stack plastic champagne flutes and pour in fizzy lemonade. Watch the fizzy drink spill over the top of the top glass and all the way down the tower of flutes.	Can colour the lemonade before pouring into the glasses.	Can use different glasses/ cups to stack i.e. flutes/plastic pint glasses etc.	Drops of food colour in the bottom of glasses (wouldn't be until fluid mixed you would see colour)	Doesn't need to be a fizzy liquid, can use still and overflow cups. Could use water	Use 2L bottles nailed onto a wooden backboard (staggered) to

				outside in summer to pattern floor	create a water run instead of a fountain
Salt Melting: Create a large chunk of ice and put this in the freezer the night before the session. Sprinkle a modest amount of salt onto the chunk to melt the ice. Wait a small while for the ice to begin to melt then using a pipette drop some liquid water colours onto the ice chunk and watch the colour travel through the tunnels melted in the ice.	Use all the same coloured water colour vs a number of different colours. Using different colours means they mix too!	Use different shaped frozen chunks of ice. Can use jelly mould to create novelty shapes	Use table salt / coarse / rock salt to create different tunnels through the ice chunk.	Use turkey basters or tiny pipettes to shoot a different amount of colour into the ice chunks	Put the chunks of ice in a tray and when it begins to melt it will create a tie dye of colours in the tray for the children to see too
Paint Bombs: Fill watered down paint into small water bombs. Have a large sheet of paper on the floor. Stand on a chair and throw the paint bombs at it, causing them to explode and create patterns on the paper.	Different size paint bombs. Bigger ones will be easier to break!	Drop from different heights – this will create different 'splats' on the paper	Back onto different coloured papers	If appropriate can use glow in the dark paint on black paper	On a sunny day can just use water bombs and throw them on the ground.
Supersize Marble Painting: Have a large shallow plastic tray and cover the bottom with paper. Put different colours of paint in all four corners of the tray. Throw in some marbles and roll them around the tray. Make sure the children can see and show them the paper after.	Can water down the paint to create a more 'tie dye' effect	For outdoor activity can use larger balls i.e. beach ball/football and roll through the paint slowly. May need supporting adult to catch the ball	Fill the bottom of the tray with shaving foam and mix colours in, lay the paper on the top of the shaving foam to create a 3D picture	Use paper of different shapes i.e. heart, rainbow, circle, square- can link to curriculum. Can also use different coloured paper.	One vs. number of different colours in the tray