

Attention Autism Guidance

Everyone in the room should be sitting in the semi-circle

Why? We don't want the children to think there is something more exciting happening outside of the activity

Adults model good attention skills and engage with enthusiasm and excitement!

Why? Children learn appropriate behaviour by copying those around them

All items used during the activity should only be touched by the adult leading the session (unless directed e.g. in stage 3)

Why? The children may take this as a cue that it is appropriate to join in without direction



Allow the children to spontaneously comment or respond to the session – don't ask questions

Why? Allowing for spontaneous language/ responses takes the pressure off children and encourages less adult directed communication

Adults lead children back to their seat silently – don't give verbal prompts e.g. "sit down"

Why? The activity itself should be motivating enough to make the children want/ choose to sit and attend. Saying 'listening'/'sitting' acts as a prompt and distracts the child and rest of the group from the activity

