



## USING COMMUNICATION TEMPTATIONS TO MOTIVATE COMMUNICATION

Many children with ASD do not feel the need or motivated to communicate as everyone in their environment thinks for them, gives them what they want or even anticipates their needs. When you create a communication programme **it is VITAL you create as many opportunities as possible for the child to communicate.**

The key to promote communication is to **immerse the child in a communication enriched environment.** The easiest way to do this is to look around the environment at home and school, and think of all the times in the day when you could model, promote, encourage or support communication. Creating as many visuals, schedules, activities and routines as possible are a great way to promote communication.

Start with activities that are particularly desirable or intriguing for your child are more likely to 'tempt' them or provide them with sufficient motivation to communicate with another person. Encourage verbal children to use their words or extend their word i.e. **"Drink"** to **"I want drink"** and non-verbal children to use visuals/signs/gesture to communicate.

# 12 IDEAS TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES TO COMMUNICATE

- 1 Give the child container with lid on too tight so the child needs to ask for **"HELP"** \*.
- 2 When turning tap on/off, say **"ON/OFF"**. Wait for them to say to say **"ON/OFF"**.
- 3 Count wherever possible, e.g. **toys when packing away, pieces of food, etc.**
- 4 Sing songs when doing activities (**"Everybody finish"**, etc).
- 5 Give activity with a part missing so they need to ask for **"HELP"**.
- 6 Remove plug from power for computer or DVD player, then they need to ask for **"HELP"**.
- 7 Eat food (they like in front of child and don't give to them any **until they request a taste.**
- 8 Wherever possible don't anticipate their communication. **Wait for them to communicate first**, rather than pre guessing their needs (e.g. hands dirty, want to wash, wait for them to look at you, and indicate want of help, etc
- 9 Put favourite toy into a container. Have the child request **"OPEN"**.
- 10 Have the child on your knee, drop them back and have them request **"UP"**.
- 11 Give the child tickles, bubbles, etc and have them request **"MORE"**.
- 12 Sing the child's favourite song and have them request **"AGAIN"**.

\*Remember if the child is nonverbal they will need a visual to ask for help. You need to make sure their communication method is always available. **Make sure you make spare visuals**, so if get lost always have a back up available.

Rewards are an important element of communication for children with ASD. So always remember to make activities fun, fast and rewarding.



# 10 KEY RULES TO A SUCCESSFUL COMMUNICATION PROGRAMME

- 1 Ensure consistency between environments.
- 2 Be eclectic; try lots of different ideas and strategies.
- 3 Remember **not every strategy** works for everyone.
- 4 Never assume incompetence.
- 5 Always model **good communication practices**.
- 6 Make communication **functional**.
- 7 Make communication **fun and enjoyable**.
- 8 Use **rewards and motivators**.
- 9 Ensure the child has **communication enriched environments**.
- 10 Be persistent and **REPEAT, REPEAT, REPEAT**.

Every strategy, no matter how bizarre, **is worth a try and if at first you don't succeed then try and try again**. No one child with ASD is the same so not all strategies will work with every child – so think carefully of how to adapt a strategy to suit the particular individual.



# TOP COMMUNICATION RESOURCES FOR SUPPORTING CHILDREN

## PRACTICAL COMMUNICATION PROGRAMMES

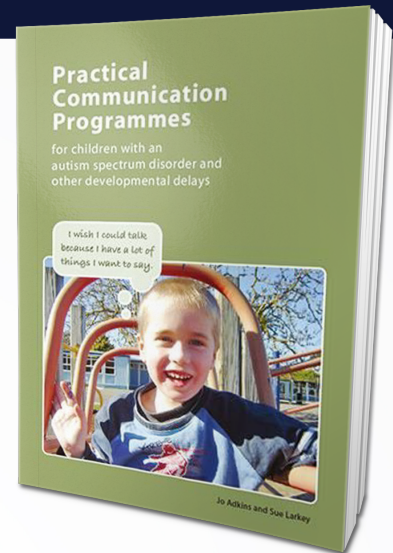
By Jo Adkins and Sue Larkey

Communication is the biggest area of skill deficits in nearly all children on the autism spectrum – whether it is little to no verbalisation, social skills or simply understanding spoken language. This book offers hundreds of ideas and strategies to improve communication skills – including picture exchange, teaching literacy skills, and emotions. It includes activities and resources you can photocopy.

- CODE B19 | \$44.95 (PLUS P & H)

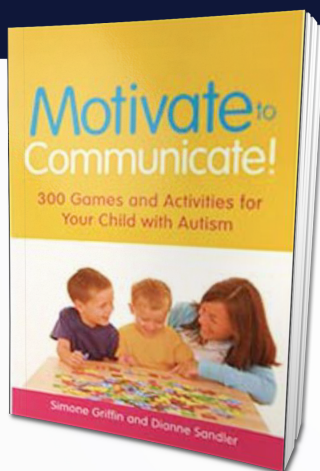
“I purchased your book and I have to say, it is one of the best things I ever did. “Thank You” for writing something in plain language that can be clearly understood. ”

- Marilyn, Parent



## MOTIVATE TO COMMUNICATE

By Simone Griffin and Dianne Sandler



This accessible and practical photocopiable resource is brimming with ideas and guidance for motivating children with autism spectrum disorder or other communication difficulties. Can be utilized to develop all levels of communication, from reaching to using pictures to communicate, to increasing the length of the child's verbal communication. "Motivate to Communicate!" is perfect for supporting professionals, parents and caregivers to motivate and maintain motivation.

- \$35.95 | CODE B73

## TACKLING SELECTIVE MUTISM

Bringing together the latest research and understanding on selective mutism. Experts in the fields of speech therapy, psychology, music therapy and education and communication specialists offer a wide range of professional perspectives on the condition, while case studies from people with selective mutism, past sufferers and parents reveal the personal impact. The book also clarifies what support a person with selective mutism is likely to need at home, school and in social situations.

- CODE B19 | \$44.95 (PLUS P & H)

