



Active Listening

Autism & ABA Therapy Social Skills

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Activity Title:

"Listen and Learn: The Active Listening Game"

Objective:

To improve the child's ability to listen attentively, comprehend information, and respond appropriately in conversations.

Materials Needed:

- A set of story cards or short, simple stories (can be written or printed)
- A list of questions related to each story
- A comfortable, quiet space for the activity

Activity Setup:

Prepare the Stories:

- Create or select a few short and simple stories. Each story should be engaging and age-appropriate.
- Write down a set of questions for each story to test comprehension and attention to details.

Choose a Distraction-Free Environment:

- Select a calm area where the child can focus without external distractions.

Activity Steps:

Storytelling:

- The adult reads a story aloud to the child in a clear and engaging manner.
- Encourage the child to listen carefully without interrupting.

Question Time:

- After the story, ask the child questions related to the story.
- Questions can range from basic details (e.g., "What was the dog's name?") to more inferential ones (e.g., "Why do you think the character was happy at the end?").

Encourage Detail Recall:

- Prompt the child to recall specific details or sequences from the story.
- This helps in enhancing memory and attention to detail.

Role Reversal:

- Allow the child to read a story or describe a scenario to the adult.
- The adult then answers questions posed by the child, modeling active listening.

Feedback and Reinforcement:

- Provide positive feedback on the child's listening and comprehension skills.
- Offer gentle corrections and guidance to improve their understanding.

Skills Targeted:

- Concentration and focus during listening
- Understanding spoken language
- Recalling information and details
- Responding to questions based on what was heard
- Engaging in two-way communication

Example Story:

Story Title:

"The Lost Toy Rocket"

Story:

Once upon a time, in a small town, there was a young boy named Alex who loved playing with his toy rocket. He would spend hours in his backyard, launching it into the air and imagining it flying to the moon. One day, while playing, the toy rocket landed in a tall tree and Alex couldn't reach it. He felt very sad and didn't know what to do.

Just then, his neighbor, Mrs. Jenkins, saw him looking troubled and asked what was wrong. Alex explained about his lost rocket. Mrs. Jenkins, who was very kind, offered to help. She fetched a ladder and carefully climbed up the tree. After a few minutes, she reached the rocket and brought it safely back to Alex. He was overjoyed and thanked Mrs. Jenkins for her help. From that day on, Alex made sure to play with his rocket in an open field to avoid losing it again.

Questions:

Basic Detail Question:

- "What was Alex's favorite toy?"
 - *Answer:* Alex's favorite toy was his toy rocket.

Inferential Question:

- "Why did Alex feel sad?"
 - *Answer:* Alex felt sad because his toy rocket landed in a tall tree and he couldn't reach it.

Detail Recall Question:

- "Who helped Alex get his toy rocket back?"
 - *Answer:* Mrs. Jenkins, his neighbor, helped him get the toy rocket back.

Comprehension Question:

- "What did Alex learn from this experience?"
 - *Answer:* Alex learned to play with his rocket in an open field to avoid losing it again.

Empathy Question:

- "How do you think Alex felt when Mrs. Jenkins helped him, and why?"
 - *Answer:* Alex probably felt relieved and grateful because Mrs. Jenkins helped him retrieve his favorite toy.