



Understanding Tone of Voice

Autism & ABA Therapy Social Skills

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Activity Title:

"Voice Match: Exploring Tones of Voice"

Objective:

To help the child recognize different tones of voice and their meanings, and to practice using varied tones appropriately.

Materials Needed:

- Tone of Voice Cards: Cards with different emotions or situations written on them (e.g., happy, sad, asking a question, excited, etc.)
- Audio Recordings: Optional, pre-recorded examples of different tones of voice
- A recording device: A smartphone or tablet for recording and playing back voices

Activity Setup:

Prepare the Tone Cards:

- Write or print different emotions or situations on cards that typically have distinctive tones (e.g., a

card saying "happy" could be read in a cheerful tone, while a "question" card could be read with an inquisitive tone).

Optional Audio Recordings:

- If possible, prepare audio recordings of different tones of voice to use as examples. This can help the child understand the variations more clearly.

Choose a Comfortable Setting:

- Select a quiet, comfortable space to conduct the activity, minimizing distractions.

Activity Steps:

Introducing Tones:

- Start by explaining that how we say something can be as important as what we say. Different tones can change the meaning.
- Use the Tone Cards and optionally the audio recordings to demonstrate different tones of voice.

Matching Game:

- Show a Tone Card to the child and ask them to match the emotion or situation with the correct tone of voice.
- The child tries to imitate the tone that matches the card.

Recording and Playback:

- Use a recording device to record the child's attempt at using different tones.
- Play back the recordings so the child can hear themselves and discuss the differences in tones.

Role-Playing:

- Engage in role-playing exercises where the child has to use a specific tone of voice based on the situation or emotion presented in the Tone Cards.

Feedback and Encouragement:

- Provide positive reinforcement for their attempts and gently correct or guide them to improve.
- Discuss how different tones can change the meaning of what is said.

Skills Targeted:

- Recognizing and understanding different tones of voice

- Using tone of voice appropriately in communication
- Enhancing auditory processing and verbal expression
- Improving social understanding and empathy

Example Audio Recording and Play Back:

(Note: Each line is read with the tone indicated in parentheses.)

Happy Tone:

- "I had the best day at the park today!" (Cheerful and lively)

Sad Tone:

- "I lost my favorite toy, and I can't find it anywhere." (Somber and low)

Question Tone:

- "Do you know where we kept the cookies?" (Curious and higher pitch at the end)

Excited Tone:

- "We're going to the zoo this weekend!" (Energetic and enthusiastic)

Angry Tone:

- "I can't believe my project got ruined!" (Sharp and a bit louder)

Scared Tone:

- "Did you hear that strange noise outside?" (Trembling and quiet)

Questions for Each Tone:

Happy Tone:

- "How can you tell that the speaker is happy in this recording?"

Sad Tone:

- "What clues in the voice let you know the speaker is feeling sad?"

Question Tone:

- "What makes this tone sound like the speaker is asking a question?"

Excited Tone:

- "What changes in the voice indicate that the speaker is excited?"

Angry Tone:

- "In what ways does the speaker's voice show that they are angry?"

Scared Tone:

- "What are the characteristics of the scared tone in the speaker's voice?"