

Verbal Communication

Autism & ABA Therapy Social Skills

Activity Title:

"Emotion Charades & Conversation Starters"

Objective:

To enhance verbal communication skills, emotional understanding, and social interaction in a fun and engaging way.

Materials Needed:

- Emotion Cards (cards with different emotions written on them like happy, sad, angry, surprised, etc.)
- Conversation Starter Cards (cards with simple questions or prompts)
- A Timer (optional)

Activity Setup:

Prepare the Cards:

- Create two sets of cards: Emotion Cards and Conversation Starter Cards.
- Emotion Cards should have different emotions written or illustrated on them.
- Conversation Starter Cards should have simple open-ended questions or prompts like "Tell me about your favorite animal" or "What do you like to do on weekends?"

Choose a Quiet, Comfortable Space:

- Select a space free from distractions where the child feels comfortable.

Activity Steps:

Emotion Charades:

- Begin with the Emotion Cards.

- The adult shows an emotion card to the child.
- The child acts out the emotion without speaking, and the adult guesses the emotion.
- After the correct guess, discuss times when one might feel that emotion.
- Reverse roles where the adult acts, and the child guesses.

Conversation Practice:

- Move to the Conversation Starter Cards.
- The adult picks a card and reads the prompt aloud.
- Both the adult and the child take turns answering the question or discussing the prompt.
- Encourage the child to ask follow-up questions or express their thoughts.

Timed Conversations (Optional):

- Use a timer to allocate a specific amount of time (e.g., 2 minutes) for each person to talk about the prompt. This can help in structuring the conversation and keeping the child engaged.

Positive Reinforcement:

- Provide positive feedback and reinforcement throughout the activity.
- Focus on praising the child's effort in communication and participation.

Skills Targeted:

- Understanding and expressing emotions
- Turn-taking in conversation
- Listening skills
- Expanding expressive language
- Responding to questions
- Engaging in social interaction