



Special Time can facilitate key elements which are difficult for young children with Significant Social Communication Difficulties/ASD:

- ◆ Positive effect on child's play skills
- ◆ Interaction
- ◆ Non verbal communication
- ◆ Linguistic skills
- ◆ Self esteem

Acknowledgements:

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Early Years Support Service

Special Time





Why use Special Time ?

Special Time is an approach to developing play in children with autistic spectrum disorders/significant social communication difficulties.

This approach provides:

Non-directive interaction with an adult

Play activity based on child's developmental needs

Communicative relationship with a child

You will need:

Special Time box

Timer

Mat/Carpet

Selection of toys

Undivided attention from an adult

Regular sessions throughout the week

What to do:

- ◆ Adult chooses a quiet place away from distractions
- ◆ A clear indication of beginning and end is given
- ◆ Child given freedom to choose toys to play with
- ◆ Adult to provide a running commentary on what child is doing
- ◆ Adult to avoid making suggestions or giving instructions
- ◆ Adult to give warning for end of session
- ◆ Adult and child to tidy away box

Record of Progress

- ◆ Observational record
- ◆ Baseline or Ongoing measure
- ◆ Video tape session
- ◆ Review toys and session time
- ◆ Evaluation of session
- ◆ Weekly summary of sessions

