

What is Attention Building?

Attention Building supports children to:

- Attend to and focus on adult directed stimuli, to develop sustained attention.
- Develop natural and spontaneous communication through highly motivating activities.
- Engage in structured turn-taking activities.
- Independently complete a short activity following an adult model.

Top Tips/Considerations:

- **Who is it for?** Originally developed for Autistic children to develop attention.
- **How many children can be in a group?** 1-4 children depending on their level of need.
- **How long is a group?** 5-30 minutes (depending on the number of stages)
- Consider the child's developmental level of attention to determine stages to use.
- Stay at the lowest level until a child can sustain their attention for the duration.
- Attention skills need to be taught explicitly. Keep language simple.
- Sessions need to be: Visual; Exciting; and Predictable.

What do I need?

- Stage 1 - A bucket filled with motivating toys (that engage one or more of the senses).

N.B. These should not be regularly accessible to the children in the classroom

- Stage 2 - A sequenced activity with an exciting end point.
- Stage 3 - A motivating sensory turn-taking activity
- Stage 4 – A play-based exploratory activity

N.B. 1 per child



Training is available as part of the Local Offer via the Services2Schools website.

What are the main elements?

Stage 1: Gaining and Focusing Attention

Stage 2: Elongating/Sustaining Attention

Stage 3: Turn Taking

Stage 4: Independently completing a modelled task

