

St. Nicholas Attention Autism at St Nicholas

Curriculum Intent

(What do we want for the children at St Nicholas?)

To develop natural and spontaneous communication through the use of visually based and highly motivating activities within a range of curriculum areas.

By incorporating Attention Autism into every day, we are giving pupils the opportunity the develop focus and attention skills, independence skills as well as supporting communication. Attention Autism focuses on developing behaviour for learning, and these skills can be generalised in other lessons and throughout the school day.

Curriculum Implementation

(How will we achieve this for our pupils?)

Attention Autism sessions should be delivered several times throughout the week to build on and develop attention skill. These sessions could be used as the teacher's input for a session instead of a story, song or conversation.

Attention Autism progresses through 4 stages, where each stage builds on each skill:

Stage 1: The Bucket to Focus Attention

A bucket is filled with visually engaging objects and toys, aiming to gain the shared attention of the group. The adult leader shows each item to the group and uses simple repetitive vocabulary to comment on the various objects.

Stage 2: The Attention Builder

Visually stimulating activities are shown to the group by the adult leader, aiming to sustain attention for a longer period. The activities are fun, visually engaging and can often involve delightful mess!

Stage 3: Turn taking & Re-engaging Attention

The adult leader demonstrates a simple activity, often modelled with another adult in the group. Some children are then invited to have a turn but only if they are comfortable to do so. Not every child in the group will get a turn, which then teaches important emotional regulation skills, as well as the essential skills of waiting, turn-taking and learning through modelling.

Stage 4: Shifting & Re-engaging Attention

Stage 4 aims to develop the skill of engaging and shifting attention. The adult leader demonstrates a simple creative task, and then gives each child an individual kit to copy the task. The children take their kits to a table, complete the task independently, and then everyone returns to the group to show their completed tasks.

Curriculum Impact

(How will we know if we have achieved this?)

The impact of incorporating Attention Autism throughout St Nicholas School will be that pupils will develop better attention and listening skills which then can be transferred to other sessions. In order to maximise the impact of Attention Autism, sessions should be implemented regularly and pupils progress within AA should be monitored. In addition, AA will impact the development of spontaneous interaction in individual and encouraged shared enjoyment within a group. At St Nicholas, communication is key within our curriculum and AA will help to support development of non-verbal and verbal communication through their responses verbally, gesturally or physically.

For assessment purposes progress is recorded by teachers through lesson planning and monitored through feedback and record sheets.