

Attention Bucket



What is Attention Bucket?

- A small interesting box containing multi-sensory toys **not found in an everyday** nursery, which children wouldn't be allowed to access alone. The bucket belongs to the adult – the children should not be given any of the toys.
- It can be used to encourage a child to come to and focus on an adult led activity.

The Bucket Session:

1. Remove all possible distractions. Consider using a different room to the one your child usually 'plays' in. Show your child a picture of bucket/ bag/box and say 'bucket time'.

Now	Next
	

2. Sing an introduction song e.g. "I've got something in my bucket, I've got something in my bucket, I've got something in my bucket, I wonder what it is".
3. Show the first toy saying nothing, then show it again and add simple language e.g. 'ball', 'bounce'. Exaggerate your facial expressions; use a range of expressions (surprise, excitement, etc.) and use tone of voice. Initially aim to show one or two toys, with a maximum of three toys in the bucket.



4. When the session has finished, draw a line through the bucket/ bag and say 'Bucket time is finished'.

Strategies to Ensure Success:

- Use the Now/Next Board to help the child understand what is expected of them.
- Avoid talking directly with your child during the activity e.g. asking questions. Keep language simple – single words and short phrases e.g. “jumping man”.
- If your child begins to get very excited, slow down the activity, the rate of speech and lower your voice
- Learn to anticipate if your child is going to try and get up – pre-empt this with an arm or leg placed to prevent this, or sit them on a lap.
- If your child does leave the area, DO NOT stop – continue with the session.
- Your child should not try and touch the toys.
- Avoid showing one toy for too long, as your child may become bored.

Toy ideas:

It is a good idea to have a range of toys that you can switch between at different sessions and make sure you have prepared different things you can do with each toy in order to hold attention for increasing lengths of time. e.g. rainmaker – can tilt up and down, can roll on the floor, can twist around, can shake and dance with it.

			
Bumble Ball	Pull-string animals	Flashing windmill	Balloon
			
Jack-in-the-Box toys	Giggle stick	Musical spinning top	Singing/Dancing toys
			
Light toy	bubbles	Jumping man	Noise maker
			
Mesh ball	Wind up toys	Maraca	Spring toy

Suggested Individual Support Plan (ISP) Targets:



- The child will take part in an adult led activity for X minutes (start with a small amount of time and then increase once successful).
- The child will share interest in an activity with an adult for X minutes (start with a small amount of time and then increase once successful).



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