

## Attention Autism – Gina Davis

The Attention Autism approach focuses on developing attention and listening skills and giving the children “**an irresistible invitation to learn**”. It aims to develop natural and spontaneous communication through the use of visually based and highly motivating activities.

An approach for children who are focussed on resources (things) rather than social interactions.

### Stage one - 'Attention Bucket'

An 'attention bucket' is a bucket full of motivating and exciting toys and gadgets which will be of high interest to the children. Gina suggests that the adult in front of the children with the attention bucket must be the **most interesting** thing in the room so everything else must be out of sight.



The adult with the attention bucket demonstrates one toy at a time in front of the children, for example, winding up a toy snake and then watching the snake move. The reward must be intrinsic to the activity – the enjoyment of watching the snake. If a child gets up out of their seat they are gently, non verbally guided back. This is to encourage attention and listening skills. Gina suggests using 5 toys in each short session. Attention bucket activities are also good to use to refocus the group.

At this stage the child(ren) never touch the items because the outcome should be focussed upon making the adult the most **interesting and exciting 'thing'** in the room.

For videos, more information and further stages of Attention Autism, please go to <http://ginadavis.co.uk>