



How Typical Children Learn	Is this also true in autism?	What can parents and teachers do?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children learn much about the world through the learning of <b>language</b>.</li> <li>It is important for adults to coach and use language throughout daily routines.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Young children with autism may:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>find learning language difficult.</li> <li>need help to pay attention and listen before learning language.</li> <li>not just 'pick-up' language through experience. They may need to be specifically and repeatedly shown how to.</li> <li>find the development of language challenging if their experiences of the world are limited.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Try and simplify your language.</li> <li>Allow time for your child to process and understand what you say.</li> <li>Learn to talk about what you are doing so that your child links language to experience.</li> <li>Ask fewer questions!</li> <li>Provide lots of intensive opportunities to practice using language in different ways.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children at preschool level probably learn more <b>rules about social conduct</b> than at any other time in life.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Young children with autism may:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>not be aware of rules or expectations.</li> <li>not understand what we mean when we say 'Behave'.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be a good social tour guide. Call attention to what is happening and Why?</li> <li>Make time to point out good social behavior in siblings and peers.</li> <li>Reinforce good social behavior specifically e.g. "Good waiting".</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preschool is filled with the need to <b>practice</b>.</li> <li>Repetition does not need to be forced, or dull.</li> <li>Children love to see how a new skill can be used in different ways.</li> <li>Young children often love repetition of favourite stories or songs.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Young children with autism may:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>need a lot more practice to learn a skill.</li> <li>need the adult to prompt performance.</li> <li>need for a skill to be broken down into smaller steps.</li> <li>need lots of continuous feedback.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plan for periods of direct teaching, where new skills can be practiced in a structured and intensive way.</li> <li>Learn how to prompt your child to be successful.</li> <li>Learn how to use reinforcement and give positive feedback.</li> </ul>

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