

## Attention Autism Stage 1

'Attention Autism' was developed by specialist speech and language therapist, Gina Davies.

### ATTENTION AUTISM STAGE 1 – THE BUCKET

The first stage is an adult-led agenda, getting the child to focus. It requires a group of children and is often implemented in a nursery/school setting, playgroup, or speech therapy group. Ideally, you would have 6-8 children in the group. However, don't let this put you off doing it at home, the more you practice these skills even just with adults the better.

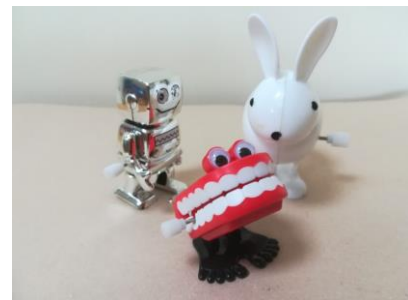


#### Attention Autism Bucket

You need a bucket or bag that you have filled with some [attention-grabbing](#) such as light-up toys, bubbles, balloons, and wind-up toys. Party bag fillers and pound shops are great for this sort of thing. Check out my post on [bucket fillers](#) for ideas on what to include in your attention bucket.



Light Up Toys for Attention Autism



Wind Up Toys for Attention

### THE BUCKET THERAPY SESSION

You need the group of children (if doing it at home get siblings, granny, and friends involved), to sit. This may be a particular challenge for many and may require lots of adult support initially. Once the group is sitting in a semi-circle facing the adult with the bucket (or bag) you can begin with a song or phrase.

Using a song that you use each time will support the children to understand what is happening. For example, we tap the bucket as we sing:

***'I have something in my bucket, in my bucket, in my bucket, I have something in my bucket, what could it be?'***

Then straight away the adult pulls out one of the items, for example, a balloon that is blown up and then let go. It is instantly put away and you move on to the next item.

The idea at stage one is just grabbing the child's attention. You need to be excited and move through the items quickly. You probably only want to do about 3-4 quick items for stage one. Make sure the activities and attention-grabbing items are pitched at the child's level and you should see progress

### Useful References and Links

[www.attentionautism.com](http://www.attentionautism.com)