



## **Maintaining Another Person's Attention in Play** ***Joint Attention and Social Communication***

### **Goals and Objectives:**

The child will engage in social behaviors (e.g., ask questions, initiate ideas, elicit the other person's attention, social commenting, imitate the other person's ideas, etc.) that maintain another person's attention in play activities and conversation.

### **Teaching Strategies:**

The child and the therapist (and eventually another peer) will engage in preferred play activities of conversation for extended amounts of time (up to 20 minutes). The therapist will follow the child's lead but periodically disengage and wait for the child to notice and engage in behaviors that will bring the therapist back to the shared activity. The therapist can stop playing, can yawn (seemingly bored of the conversation or play idea), can even step out of the role play and prompt the child to ask questions and think socially about how to keep the interest of his/her play or conversation partner.

### **Data Collection and Mastery Criteria:**

Mastery criteria – 80% across 2 days

Data collection should be collected on one components.

Component 1: Responds to or comprehends others' gestures

Component 2: Demonstrates or uses gestures

Targets	Date Introduced	Date Mastered	Date Generalized	Spontaneous Use
Set 1 Ask questions				
Set 2 Imitate another person's play idea				
Set 3 Initiate a play idea and make sure the partner engages				
Set 4 Get the partner's attention				
Set 5 Social commenting				

### **Connection Activities:**

- Dramatic play idea: pet store, veterinarian, picnic, restaurant, etc.
- Collaborative art project/drawing. Have the child tell you what to draw. Try turn taking in the drawing, each person can add to the picture.
- Cooking activities – the child can tell the adult how to pour, mix, etc.