

Lesson 3: Getting the Learner's Attention (OA)



This lesson describes and provides examples of both appropriate and inappropriate ways to get the learner's attention. It also provides specific tips and rules to follow for getting attention.

- ☰ Difficulty Paying Attention
- ☰ Saying the Learner's Name
- 📺 Sliding the Array
- 📺 Finger Swipe
- 📺 Array Reveal
- 📺 Combining Verbal and Nonverbal Methods
- 📺 Requiring an Orienting Response
- ☰ Common Mistakes to Avoid

 Knowledge Check

 Review

Difficulty Paying Attention

▶ ● ————— 00:14

Children with autism often have difficulties paying attention during instruction, which can cause them to struggle to learn. You need to make sure you have the learner's attention before providing the instruction. If the learner is not attending, there are many ways to get her attention before a trial.

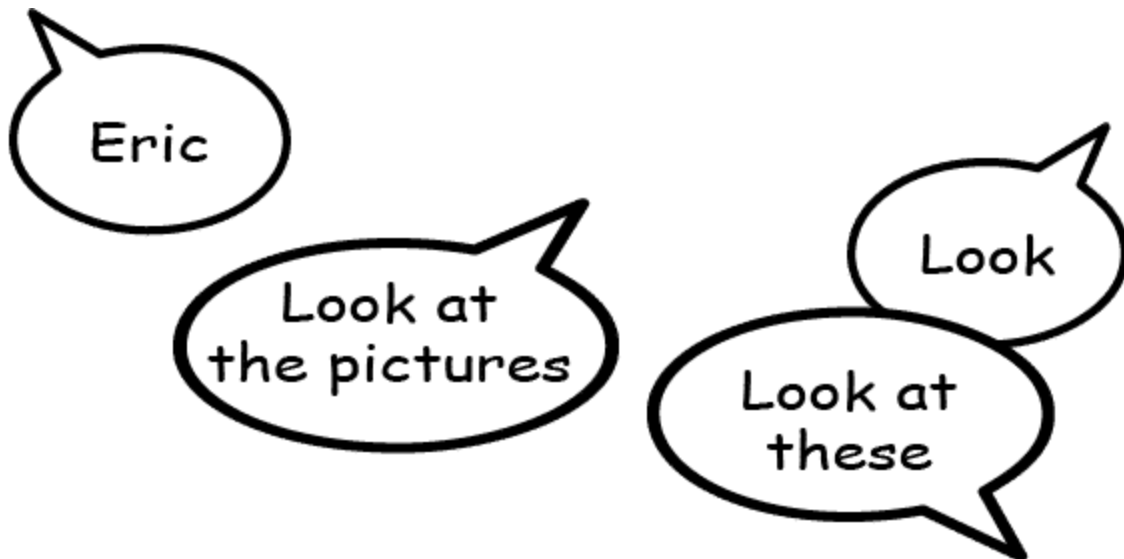


Saying the Learner's Name



00:13

One way to get the learner's attention is to say the learner's name. Another way is to say "look," "look at the pictures," or "look at these." You should only say one of these. Do **NOT** repeat them and do **NOT** use multiple sayings together.



i Most clinics advise using the child's name sparingly in this context. This reduces the likelihood that the child's name becomes associated with demands. One way to combat this is remembering to also use the child's name when presenting high preference items.

Sliding the Array



There are also nonverbal ways to get a learner's attention. You can slide the array closer to the learner. While keeping all of the pictures in a row, slide them all at once towards the learner in one smooth motion.

Finger Swipe



00:16

You can also move your finger in a fluid motion back and forth across the array. When you do this, you should move your finger across the entire array without pausing on or drawing attention to any one card. Drawing attention to any one card might accidentally cause the learner to select that card.

Array Reveal



You can also arrange the array behind a screen, then reveal the array right before giving the instruction.

Combining Verbal and Nonverbal Methods



00:22

Sometimes you can combine a verbal and a nonverbal method of getting attention. For example, you could say “Look” while running your finger across the array. However, do **NOT** use more than one verbal and one nonverbal method of getting attention. And do **NOT** use all of them together. The more of these methods that we use together, the more muddled or overwhelming they may be for the learner.

Requiring an Orienting Response



00:22

If the learner still has trouble paying attention, you may have the learner complete an orienting response, which increases the likelihood of attending to the materials. Some examples of orienting responses are having the learner run his or her finger back and forth across the array, touch each of the pictures in the array, turn over cards to reveal the pictures, or remove a screen or sheet that covers the array.

Common Mistakes to Avoid



00:21

Avoid these common mistakes!

- Do **NOT** use these techniques if the learner is already attending.
- Do **NOT** try other things like snapping your fingers at the learner.
- Do **NOT** point to each individual picture or say the names of each picture.
- Do **NOT** repeatedly use the appropriate sayings like, “look, look, look.”
- Do **NOT** start instruction until the learner is attending.

Appropriate	Inappropriate
Say “Look” or the learner’s name	Snap your fingers
Slide the pictures toward the learner	Point to each picture

Appropriate	Inappropriate
Move finger over all pictures	Say the name of each picture
Reveal pictures behind a screen	Repeatedly say the prompt

Knowledge Check

Question

01/02

Which of the following is **NOT** a correct way to get a learner's attention?

- Saying "Look, look, look"
- Sliding the stimuli towards the learner
- Running your finger back and forth across the array and saying "Look"
- Saying the learner's name

Question

02/02

Which of the following **IS** a correct way to get a learner's attention?

- Reveal the pictures behind a screen
- Snap your fingers
- Say the name of each picture
- Point to each picture

Review



Appropriate ways to get the learner's attention include:

- Say "Look" or the learner's name
- Slide the pictures toward the learner
- Move finger over all pictures
- Reveal pictures behind screen



Inappropriate ways to get the learner's attention include:

- Snap your fingers
- Point to each picture
- Say the name of each picture
- Repeatedly say the prompt



- Do **NOT** use these techniques if the learner is already attending.
- Do **NOT** try other things like snapping your fingers at the learner.
- Do **NOT** point to each individual picture or say the names of each picture.
- Do **NOT** repeatedly use the appropriate sayings like, "look, look, look."

- Do **NOT** start instruction until the learner is attending.

End of Lesson