**Improving Communication in Children with Autism**

Children with Autism often have difficulty using language to express themselves, answer questions, follow directions and interact with friends and family. Here are a few strategies to help improve communication win children with Autism.

* Use simple concrete sentences when giving directions. Long sentences with many words are often difficult for children with Autism to understand. For example, say, “Put the book on the table” instead of saying, “Go pick up your book and bring it over to the table.”
* Use visuals. Children with Autism are often visual learners. When giving directions, point to the objects you are talking about. When asking a question, provide visuals (i.e. photographs, actual objects) that represent the answer.
* Allow time for your child to respond to a question. Children with Autism may need more time to process and understand the question. Allow for enough time for your child to answer before repeating the question.
* Provide choices. If your child does not respond, try rewording the question or provide the answer in the form of a choice. For example, if you ask, “What would you like for a snack?” and the child does not respond, try asking, “What do you want to eat?” If the child still doesn’t respond, showe him/her two snacks and then repeat the question.