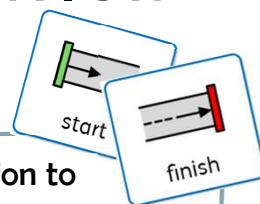


# START-FINISH STRATEGIES FOR ATTENTION



We use Start-Finish Baskets to increase a child's compliance and motivation to complete adult-directed tasks. The child learns that they only need to complete the activities they can see in the start basket and then the session will be finished. For a Start/Finish Basket activity, you will need:

- 2 empty baskets, boxes or trays (try to use the same ones each time)
- "start" and "finish" symbols
- symbols or items to represent each activity you want to do

Label one basket with "start" symbol and one with "finish" symbol. Put all activity symbols/items in the "start" basket. Once each activity is completed, the child/you puts them into the "finish" basket. Start/Finish Basket sessions should take place at least once a day.

1. Start with 2 activities that your child likes, e.g. colouring and bubbles.
2. Use consistent language e.g. "we are going to do our jobs now, let's go and sit down. First we are doing colouring, then we are doing bubbles".
3. Once the routine is established, use a learning activity followed by a motivating activity e.g. bead-threading then bubbles.
4. Make sure once the activity is finished it is put back in the "finish" basket. When the last activity is completed the session is finished and the child can go and play.
5. Once the routine is well established, increase the number of learning activities. If the child likes stickers reward their compliance with one of these.
6. Try and keep the area that you do the activities consistent, e.g. always at the kitchen table.

Ideas for activities:



- Number activities, such as number jigsaws or counting beads/bricks
- Stacking cups/rings/blocks (use it to build some turn-taking in)
- Threading, Playdoh or Finger gym
- Mark making, tracing or colouring
- Puzzles
- Speech and Language therapy activities