

## Department of Speech & Hearing CRC Kozhikode

### Improving Eye Contact while communication (Part 2)

The eye contact is one of most important aspect in communication. The eye contact is first part of pragmatic development which lacks in children with developmental disability. The following activities are very helpful for developing the appropriate eye contact mainly used house hold object and easy to perform.

Activity 6: Ball games: - pass a ball from left to right at the level of your eye. Make it disappear behind your head and wait for the child to give eye contact.

Activity 7: Throw and catch:- as the child throws the ball hide it behind your back until you get eye contact from the child.

Activity 8: Squeaky toys: - hold the toy at your eye level. Create a squeak. Stop till the child makes eye contact with the toy and look at your face.

Activity 9: Finger puppets; - draw faces on your finger, wiggle them near your faces and then hide them. Let your child give eye contact before you can do it again.

Activity 10: Make tubes out of a hard paper or use your hands to make a binocular. The child is encouraged to look in your eyes.

Activity 11: Using a light source to illuminate the face of the therapist: The therapists/parent creates a dim environment, then uses a mild source of light to illuminate his face. The illuminated face of the therapist in the dim room attracts the child. The child looks at the therapist face which can be used to develop an eye contact. The light source could be moved between the eyes to hold on to the attention of the child. A mild musical stimulus can also be associated with the activity. The music is put on whenever the child gives an eye contact. A mobile phone screen light can be used for the purpose.

