

Autism and Communication in the Early Years

Jimmy – Does He Sound Familiar?

Context blind – doesn't give it,
doesn't read it

Social behaviours out of
step with peers

Differences in loudness, pitch,
intonation, prosody, rhythm

Language lacks coherence



Active talker but not 'interactive'

Unusual management of attention

Literal and rule bound interpretation
of how things should be

Verbose speech with topic shifts,
topic drifts and fixed topics

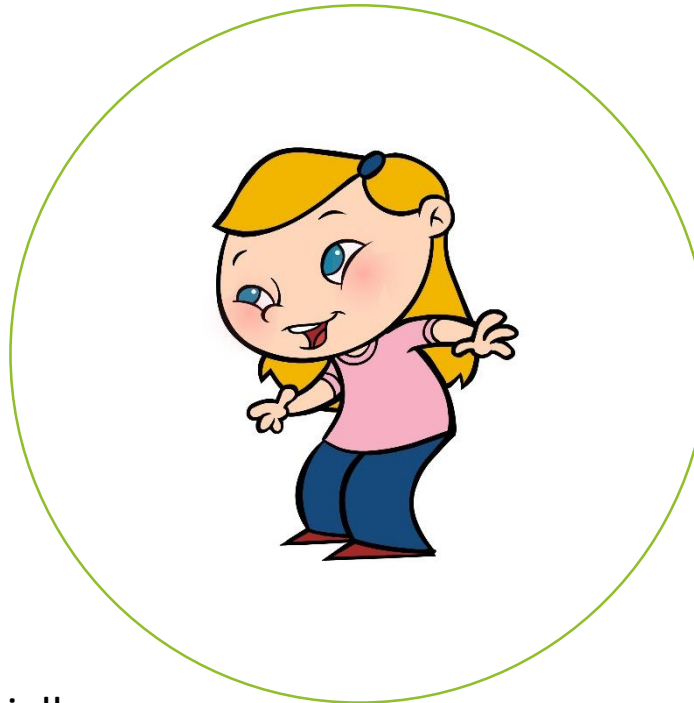
Jilly – Does She Sound Familiar?

Rarely initiates or shows her understanding – needs to be 'directed'

Plays alone with objects as companions

Vocalises and verbalises to herself – repetitive strings of sounds and echoing

Lacks instinct to socially engage peers



Restricted access to full learning experiences

Asking for something or refusing something are the main communication drivers

Has established 'the daily routine'

Included in group times but not connected

The Free Stuff!

- How to Create a Communication Friendly Classroom @ www.specialdirect.com
- Better Communication Research Programme 2012 produced “ Communication Supporting Classroom Observation Tool” @ www.communicationtrust.org.uk
- Early Support Helping Every Child Succeed produced “Information for Parents: Speech and Language Difficulties” @ www.earlysupport.org.uk
- “Misunderstood”, “Don’t Get Me Wrong”, “Universally Speaking (Birth-5), “Other Ways of Speaking” & “Primary Milestone Poster – What’s Typical Talk at Primary?” @ www.talkingpoint.org.uk

The Free Stuff!

- www.commtap.org have produced “Activities for Children’s Communication” for early years (0-5), primary years (5-11) and beyond
- www.afasic.org.uk have produced glossary fact sheets on different speech, language and communication difficulties
- The Pragmatics Profile of Everyday Communication Skills in Pre-school Children and School-Age Children is available @ www.edit.wmin.ac.uk/psychology/pp

“What?”

Assessment &
Advice

Observations

Training

Therapy
Intervention

Programme
Development

Target Setting

Consultancy for
Service Providers

Communication Exchange

Speech &
Language Therapy and
Consultancy

“How?”

Flexible

Bespoke

Timely

Engaging

Empowering

Meaningful

Interactive

Straightforward



**Jennifer Green, Independent Speech & Language Therapist
Children & Young People**

w: communication-exchange.co.uk

e: jennifer@communication-exchange.co.uk

m: 07977 427857