

Contrasting Therapy Approaches

Families - Ask questions,
interview your therapist,
understand how they practice!

Therapist Neurodiversity Collective International

• Therapy • Advocacy • Education •
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Compliance Driven

Empathetic & Respectful

Help! My teletherapy client is a non-speaking, Autistic 3-year-old. He can't sit still. There are other kids running around in the background of his home, and I don't know where to start! Ideas?

(A real life conversation between therapists.)

Alternate speech activities with movement activities.

Use visual schedule for the session so child can refer back to it.

Visual cues for expected responses.

Have him say 5 words before getting a music video and use cards to turn over so he can see "all done".

Have him give 10 responses before getting a break.

ABA is a human rights violation. We don't train children like animals. The child is non-speaking, so they need access to robust AAC with modeling. There should not be expectations for the child to sit and be still - he's three and he's Autistic. (Sensory differences, stimming needs, neurodivergent listening styles.) And attending to a screen is a compliance goal - not a communication goal. Read some contemporary Autism research. (Masking, The Double Empathy Problem, Diversity in Social Intelligence.)
I don't need a child's compliance to teach them communication.

"We give (NT kids) "hugs, high-fives, fist bumps smiles. For kids on the spectrum these types of interactions often have no meaning. Offering something that's enjoyable to these little ones is a great facilitator."

Have child attend to a screen for 3 seconds.

Schools have desks for a reason. We need to teach children to sit and learn.

Motivate child with rewards - earn tokens or stickers, access to favorite foods, toys, activities.

"For kids on the spectrum these types of interactions often have no meaning."

This statement says everything about what the therapist believes about Autistic children.

Don't touch any kid without their consent. Neurodivergent listening skills are different. Neurodivergent children learn while standing, rocking, stimming and not making eye contact.

Attending to a screen is a compliance goal, not a communication goal. Intrinsic rather than prompt dependent extrinsic motivation for communication. We don't 'train' children. We train animals.