Bingo and Categories Instructions

Vocabulary is stored in our memories in categories. Therefore, it is very effective to teach word categories to children with autism. Vocabulary should be taught using a match, receptive, expressive progression and should begin with highest preference items.

Match:

Print out two of the printed bingo cards. Laminate one and cut the other into pieces and laminate them individually. Put hook Velcro on the backs of the bingo pieces and loop Velcro on the front of the bingo card. Set the category heading aside for later. Give the child a bingo piece and say, “match cow” (example). If the child matches to cow say, “Good. Cow” and help the child point to the cow. Proceed this way until the child can easily match all of the pieces.
Receptive:

Use the same set of materials as for the matching task. Place two pieces in front of the child. Say “Match duck” (example). If the child picks up and matches the correct piece, say, “Good. Duck,” and help the child point to the duck. If the child picks up the wrong piece, take the piece before it is matched and return it to the table without commenting. Repeat the prompt, pointing at the correct piece. When the child picks it up and matches, proceed as above, praising and helping the child point to the correct word.

Expressive:

Give the child a bingo card and say, “What is this?” Wait. If the child answers correctly, praise and repeat. “Good. Horse.” If the child hesitates or gets it wrong, say the word and then ask again.

Sorting:

When two categories are mastered at least at the receptive level, print out two of the blank bingo cards and put a loop Velcro dot in the center of each of the boxes.

Put one category label of each of the top boxes. Place the bingo pieces in a container so they can be pulled out one at a time or present them in an appropriate field for the child’s level (eg. 2 to 6 presented at a time).

As the child matches to the correct category, model saying the item as it is placed, then say, “Good. Bird is an animal.”

Introduce new categories using the same progression.