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Linda Hodgdon's Newsletter

Another View: Effective Solutions for Autism, Asperger's & More. . .



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The hockey team had a picnic recently and I had the good fortune to attend. Lots of kids running and playing and having quite a good time. Would you be surprised if I told you that some of the kids got a bit "wild?" What was interesting was watching how the parents handled the situations. And that is what started my thinking that ended up as this month's article.

Read on . . .

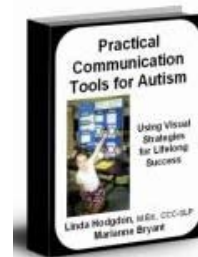
P.S. Are you one of those who needs to get continuing education credits for your job? Check out the information below. It might be a resource that will help you.

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Yelling Doesn't Work

It's summer. Kids play. They get involved in their games and activities. So involved, in fact, that when you want to talk to them, it can be hard to get their attention. Here's



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what to remember. Yelling doesn't work.

Who are we talking about?

ADD, ADHD, Autism, Asperger's and lots of others with attention and communication challenges and lots of "neurotypical" kids too.

What are the kids doing?

Climbing on the monkey bars or digging in the sand or jumping on the trampoline. Perhaps they are drawing with chalk or riding on any kid type vehicle or running with all the energy they can muster.

What are the parents doing?



Yelling. From one room to another in the house. From the porch of the house to kids in the back yard. Across the playground. "Johnny, come here." "Michael, you need to

blah, blah, blah." "Susie, it's time to la la la."

What happens?

The kids don't hear. Or they don't respond. Parents get frustrated and yell again, but louder this time. Be forewarned. This little routine is apt to repeat itself several times. Kids don't hear or respond. Parents call out again, but a bit louder each time this routine is duplicated.

You must see "the whites of their eyes"

It comes from American history. Don't shoot until you see the whites of their eyes. Adapted for our kids, it becomes don't speak until you can see the whites of their eyes." Or until you are sure that you have their attention. Or until they do something to let you know they are listening and ready to respond.

And the goal?

Correction & transition. These are two frequent needs. We want them to know something. Sometimes we are correcting a behavior. Lots of times the purpose is telling them it's time to do something or change activities.

Correcting behavior requires consistency

But it often requires the adult to do something different to get the attention of the child they are communicating with. Here are some possibilities.

1. Walk over to the child so you are visible to him . . . no more that a few feet away. Make sure he/she acknowledges your presence before communicating your message.
2. Use some form of visual reminder. But remember, you still need to be close so they will see the visual cue.

Try these for the transition issues

1. Use some form of auditory signal. I know I talk about

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using visual strategies, but think of the old fashioned dinner bell. That unexpected noise does capture people's attention. Teach children to know that when I ring the bell, it means "come here." This kind of sound can work because of the novelty.

2. Try a cell phone. It can be cool to carry a phone in your pocket. When it rings that means go see mom or dad. Many phones have an alarm option that you can set to go off at a certain time.

3. There are a lot of kid watches on the market that have a built in timer. Here's an example. [Click for watch with timer info](#)



4. Another watch variation is one with vibration. For some, that can be a better alert system than sound.

[Click here for watch with vibration](#)

5. A great novelty item is a set of walkie talkies. What a fun way to get kids attention for effective communication.

[Check these out](#)



So here's the point

Sometimes it's our challenge to "change it out" a little or do something a little different to make life work better. And some of these alternatives will work better than yelling.



Have You Watched This
*F*R*E*E* Webinar?

I interviewed Marianne Bryant in a webinar titled: **8 Tips for Creating Success with Visual Strategies**. Did you attend? Marianne is a great story teller. She shared very practical insights and ways that she has used visual tools with her daughter with ASD. There is still a little bit of time to access this program for *F*R*E*E*. You can view it at www.UseVisualStrategies.com

AFO Members ONLY



Our next webinar will be Thursday, July 15. The topic is:

Using Video Techniques for Increasing Prosocial Behaviors.

I'll be interviewing Terese Dana, a behavioral specialist and social skills instructor, who has been using video for many years. She's one of those "in-the-trenches" people who will share her vivid experiences with how valuable video instruction has been with her students. We will be talking about lots of information including effective ways to incorporate a video based social skills curriculum in the classroom.

This program is part of the FREE webinar series for members of AutismFamilyOnline.com

Not a member?

Go to [Autism Family Online](http://AutismFamilyOnline) to check it out.

Continuing Education Credits

Do YOU need to earn continuing education credits? Those with a GOLD membership at AutismFamilyOnline.com can receive certificates for participating in up to 12 hours of training. Check it out to see if it meets your continuing ed needs.

About Linda

Linda Hodgdon, M.Ed., CCC-SLP is a Speech-Language Pathologist and a Consultant for Autism Spectrum Disorders. She is the author of the bestseller, **Visual Strategies for Improving Communication**, one of the most recommended books in the field of autism.



Internationally recognized as a powerful and informative speaker and consultant, Linda has presented her insightful and dynamic workshops to audiences of educators and parents worldwide.

Click here for more information about [Linda's programs](#)

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This E-Newsletter is sent to people in more than 75 countries around the world? Do you know someone who would like to receive a copy? Click on the "Tell A Friend" button at the top of this page.

Tidbits ...

Want to use this article in your newsletter or web site? You can if you ask permission at office@usevisualstrategies.com. We will let you know the details.

****Do YOU have a success story from using visual strategies?**

Some of the best teaching results come from sharing ideas. Please send your story to office@usevisualstrategies.com with the subject line "my story". I will share some of these ideas in upcoming issues.

To ensure that you receive Linda Hodgdon's newsletter in your inbox (not bulk or junk folders) add office@usevisualstrategies.com to your address book.

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