Learning to Listen: Following Auditory Directions

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Introduction

Why are we discussing Following Auditory Directions?

How are we approaching Following Auditory Directions?

What are we doing in therapy to target Following Auditory Directions?

Why are we discussing Following Auditory Directions?

“Listening and following directions are important skills that span several areas of child development. For example, they are essential in the ability to learn in a group, to follow along in a lesson, and to understand the information being given.”

--Ellen Booth Church
Why are we discussing Following Auditory Directions?

- Hearing Acuity
- Auditory Memory
- Language

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Why are we discussing Following Auditory Directions?

- Acoustic Disadvantage
  - Abnormal Auditory System
  - Assistive Devices
  - Adverse Listening Environment

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Why are we discussing Following Auditory Directions?

"Auditory training can improve performance for tasks in background noise, auditory memory, and processing speed, and can reduce listening effort at both perceptual and neural levels."

--Kara Vasili & Kris English
How are we approaching Following Auditory Directions?

- Create Appropriate Directions
- Ensure Task Understanding
- Present Auditory-only

Steps vs. Critical Elements

- Create Appropriate Directions
  - Steps vs. Critical Elements
  - Sets
  - Context

“Put the little dog on the couch, and make Mommy comb her hair.”
How are we approaching Following Auditory Directions?
Create Appropriate Directions

• Steps vs. Critical Elements

“Put the little dog on the couch, and make Mommy comb her hair.”

“Clap and Blink.”

How are we approaching Following Auditory Directions?
Create Appropriate Directions

• Sets

Open the door.
Put the dog on the couch.
Make the girl brush her teeth.
Put the dog beside the bed.
Put Mommy behind the TV.
Put the cat under the table.
Put the dog behind the chair.
Put Mommy behind the couch.
Put the cat behind the bookshelf.

How are we approaching Following Auditory Directions?
Create Appropriate Directions

Open the lion’s mouth.
Open the giraffe’s mouth.
Open the hippo’s mouth.
How are we approaching Following Auditory Directions?
Create Appropriate Directions

Question # 1
How many critical elements are in each direction of this set?
 a) 1  b) 2  c) 3  d) each direction has a different number

How are we approaching Following Auditory Directions?
Create Appropriate Directions

Put the tiger behind the tree.
Put the monkey under the rock.
Put the zebra beside the water.

How are we approaching Following Auditory Directions?
Create Appropriate Directions

Question # 2
How many critical elements are in each direction of this set?
 a) 1  b) 2  c) 3  d) each direction has a different number
Put the fish in the alligator's mouth.
Make the elephant walk to the river then eat the grass.
Give the turtle the flower.

How many critical elements are in each direction of this set?

a) 1  b) 2  c) 3  d) each direction has a different number

- Contexts
  - Body movements / actions (Walk, jump, and turn around.)
  - toy manipulation (Put the dog on the couch.)
  - paper and pencil tasks (Underline the fruit.)
  - boards, computer games, and apps
How are we approaching Following Auditory Directions?
Ensure Task Understanding

- Provide instructions auditory-Visually
- Identify all components of the activity which may be critical elements
- Complete at least one auditory-visual practice run

How are we approaching Following Auditory Directions?
Present Auditory-only

- Acoustic hoop
- Out of visual field

What are we doing in therapy to target Following Auditory Directions?

- Multiple critical element levels
- At least 10 auditory directions per level
- At least 3 contexts per level
- In quiet and in background noise
What are we doing in therapy to target Following Auditory Directions?

Body Movements / Actions

What are we doing in therapy to target Following Auditory Directions?

Toy Manipulation

What are we doing in therapy to target Following Auditory Directions?

Paper and Pencil Tasks
What are we doing in therapy to target Following Auditory Directions?

**Paper and Pencil Tasks**

- With a pencil, underline one animal that doesn't have legs.
- With a crayon, circle one animal that does have a tail.
- With a pen, cross-out one animal that doesn't have a mane.
- With a marker, color one animal that does have feathers.

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**Boards, Computer Games, and Apps**

- Make the _____ take the _____ to the _____ and eat some _____.

Instruction Booklet photo courtesy of Chris Beza
What are we doing in therapy to target Following Auditory Directions?
Boards, Computer Games, and Apps

- If there is a brown hotdog on the grill, put the girl with the goggles in the pool.
- If there is a green flipper beside the pool, put the boy with the alligator in the pool.
- If there is a purple ball in the water, put the boy with the shark in the pool.
Summary

• Why are we discussing Following Auditory Directions?
• How are we approaching Following Auditory Directions?
• What are we doing in therapy to target Following Auditory Directions?

References & Resources

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Questions

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