

Fragile World On The Spectrum

*Tools for Helping Your Child Feel
“Safe, Accepted, & Competent”*



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*Expect Active
Participation!*

Tool #23

Active Participation



- You cannot learn without doing.
- “You have to do, to learn”
- In order for your child to “learn” effectively he has to be an “active participant” in what is going on around him and to him!
- Nothing for him, without him!
- Regardless of skill level, always expect some level of active participation on the child’s part.

Learned Helplessness

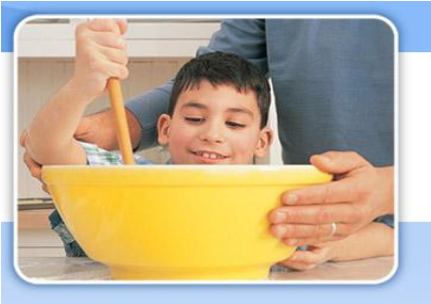
Doing For

- We tend to “do for” children with special needs.
- Sets the expectation that they “cannot” do.
- Child learns that others do “for” them.
- Fosters learned helplessness.

Doing With

- Expectation of active participation in life.
- Learning through guided participation.
- Builds skills, independence and confidence.
- Use all daily interactions as learning opportunities

Expect Active Participation



- Don't do for the child, without the child!
- Expect the child to play an active part in everything you do for him.
- Even if you have to do 95% of the task, expect child to actively participate.
- Once participation is established, gradually expect greater participation.
- Turn all normal daily activities into learning opportunities (self care, laundry, cooking, yard work, etc.)
- When the child gets used to actively participating, learning takes off!

Building Feelings of Competence



- Regardless of how much assistance the child needs, expect some active participation.
- Do the activity together, building confidence through “doing it with you.”
- Active participation builds stronger feelings of competence, which motivates greater participation.
- When the child “expects” that he has to actively participate, he is primed to learn.