



# Module 4 Session 3

WEBINAR 2022

# Reflection

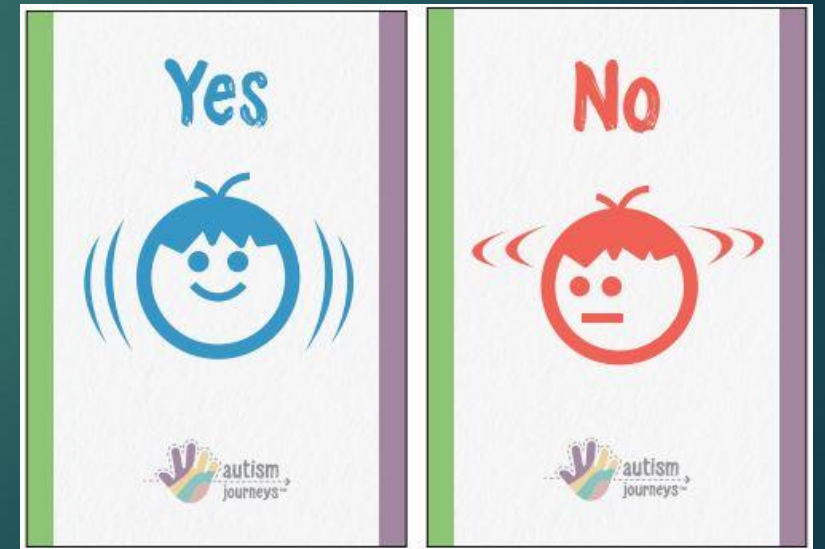
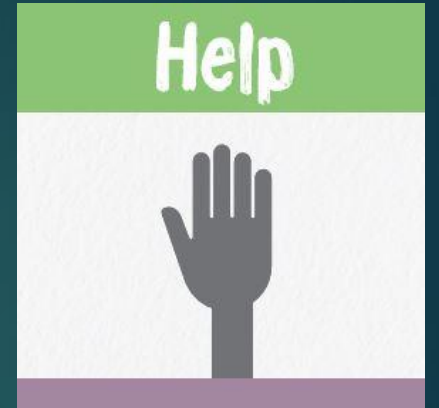
# Independence

- ▶ Momentary goal – educational access, comfort, safety, autonomy
  - ▶ Preparation for vertical transitions begins early
- ▶ Long-term goal – independence / interdependence
  - ▶ Being able to ask for help
- ▶ Transition to adulthood
- ▶ Managing horizontal transitions to support managing vertical transitions

# Essential Skills

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- ▶ Sense of self
- ▶ Consent / Knowing my boundaries
- ▶ Choice
- ▶ Asking for help
- ▶ I want
- ▶ I'm done
  - ▶ Help yes no visuals
- ▶ Consent video for children
  - ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h3nhM9UIJjc>



# Compliance is not the goal – authenticity is!

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<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpsyg.2021.635690/full>

"The final fundamental principle concerns autonomy and the right to say “no”.

Poignant accounts from autistic adults describe the use within early interventions of overbearing physical prompting, ignoring of communication attempts, or outright removal of their right to communicate “no” and how this left them passive, traumatized, and vulnerable to abuse (Kirkham, 2017; McGill and Robinson, 2020). These practices must be avoided".

# Boundaries

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- ▶ Not rewarding for pushing through
- ▶ I've had enough
- ▶ Vulnerability
- ▶ Intrinsically rewarding
- ▶ Compliance is not the goal – authenticity is!
- ▶ Alfie Cohen – Punished by Rewards
- ▶ <https://www.facebook.com/CenterforUnderstanding>
- ▶ <https://therapistndc.org/>

# Strategies

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- ▶ Big picture
  - ▶ Hidden curriculum – context (others appear to just know)
  - ▶ Clear expectations ('just listen' - what do I actually listen to?)
- ▶ Strengths-focus
  - ▶ Linking interests to learning (how is this relevant?)
- ▶ Take the pressure off – proactive preparation
- ▶ Comfort level of the child
  - ▶ Safe person / safe relationships
  - ▶ Safe space
  - ▶ Offering an opt out

# Noticing

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- ▶ Masking – validating and honouring the child
- ▶ Attuning to the child
- ▶ Empowering towards self-actualisation





# Ultimately

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Child's voice central always



Validate!



True authentic autistic self



Key role – to set the child up for success