

Identiplay



What is it and why would you use it?

Identiplay is an approach that helps establish a shared focus. By doing this, it helps develop imitation skills, which in turn builds children's confidence as they practise a new skill.

Who is it for?

All children need play skills if they are to be fully included. Children naturally need to experience peer interactions. Play is a tool for learning and all children need this opportunity. Children need to practise social routines in safe surroundings.

Identiplay should be used for any pupil who needs to develop their play skills and is currently working at a parallel play level in isolation. It was initially devised for pupils presenting with or diagnosed with Autistic Spectrum Disorder.

What does it look like?

The idea is to set up a parallel play scenario with toys that meet the pupils play development and motivation. Have two of each item with a clearly defined play area for the pupil and yourself. Playing alongside each other with no interference from the adult will help encourage the pupil who finds interaction difficult, to learn new play skills. The adult needs to provide a very simple narrative to match the play actions to provide the pupil with structure, consistency, and an understanding of what is happening.

Always allow the pupil to explore the toys first before modelling your play sequence. Try and sit at a table at first, so that you can be eye level with the pupil. Sitting on a chair will also support listening and attention skills. Later, once the play routine is established you can move beyond the table to setting to floor and standing play.

Example of tabletop play activities include:

- Cars / vehicles
- Animals
- Babies
- Self-care routines
- Cooking
- Shopping



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zkyfP_kxFTs – An example of Identiplay teaching.