

Creating Moments of C2U (Curiosity to You)

One of the hallmarks of autism is a difficulty in what we call “joint attention” in the child development world. Joint attention refers to the ability of someone to jointly attend to something with another person (usually their parent) in order to share enjoyment, curiosity, or information. The process of joint attention begins very early in typical development yet in autism either develops then disappears or does not develop typically.

Joint attention leads to partnerships for early regulation needs, understanding social rules, navigating and negotiating with peers, and creating and maintaining friendships. By highlighting this very early and foundational aspect of interactions, we allow all learning and engagement to truly come to life and be helpful to that individual.

The goal of creating moments of C2U is to bring the parent or guide part of that joint attention into full focus for children and adults of all ages who experience autism. C2U ensures the curiosity to you, as your child's guide over and above the object or activity you offer.

Creating C2U Whenever You Approach Your Child

Whenever you approach your child to offer a snack, a toy, an activity, take a moment to truly connect with your child first. Sit beside your child, provide a bit of physical touch with tension toward you, but allow processing time. One aspect that is fabulous and challenging about autism is the intense focus. With this intense focus comes a need for time to shift from that focus to a different focus: you. If you do not allow that shift to you, then you have already lost the moment to highlight their C2U or his/her true curiosity to you, as his or her kind, loving, and supportive guide. They will immediately shift their attention to the item or activity you have next.

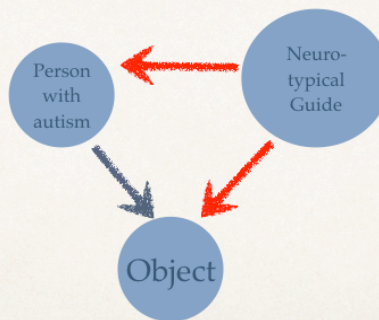
Creating C2U Whenever Your Child Approaches You

Many people with autism will start talking before connecting or being curious about you. We reinforce this by responding to their approaches and/or words, even though that curiosity and joint attention is not present. Allowing the child to say what they need to say then make the realization that you are the recipient of that verbal communication – by slowing down, not responding, waiting, listening intently until his or her gaze and or body language indicates those words are truly for you... will support C2U and subsequent joint attention.

If your child does not make this realization, you may have to go to him/her and use the guidelines for creating C2U when you approach instead. Then respond to his or her words accordingly.

What happens in autism

The ongoing check of that joint attention
only happens **from**
the parent, teacher, or loved one



True joint attention includes the CURIOSITY to each other or
C2U before the object or topic

Our goal with C2U[®]

