

## Mitch – A Toddler at-Risk for ASD

Mitch is a 14 month-old boy who was found to be at-risk for a later diagnosis of an autism spectrum disorder based on a 12-month parent-report measure. A developmental assessment at 14 months confirmed areas of concern as well as showing a number of strengths.



Watch the videos and take notes of Mitch's strengths and challenges in the area of pivotal skills for social-communication and language outcomes, as well as play skills. Focus on the **pivotal skills** covered in this presentation:

- Attending to people & objects in the environment
- Imitation
- Intentional nonverbal communication
- Shared attention/joint engagement
- Joint attention
- Functional and pretend play

Think about Mitch's behaviors in terms of each pivotal skill you may observe (or not)

Think about how many *different* examples of pivotal skills you observed

Activity	Strengths	Challenges	Other notes (e.g., preferences, prompts)
Play with Dad			
Play with dolls & dishes			
Snack			

**Setting Intervention Goals:**

- Refer to pivotal skills on page 1
- Think about his behaviors in terms of each pivotal skill you may have observed (or not)
- Think about how many *different* examples of pivotal skills you observed
- Consider his family's concerns & priorities
- Discuss and come up with 2-3 intervention goals appropriate for Mitch

1) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Planning for a Single Intervention Session for Parents or Childcare Provider:**

Considering the above pivotal skills chosen as goals, look at:

- How will you open the session? (relationship-building)
- How will you explain the pivotal behavior and strategy of focus for this session?
- How will you demonstrate the strategy to promote that pivotal behavior in the home/childcare context?
- How will you get the parent/childcare provider to try out the strategy?
- How will you ask for feedback from the parent(s)/childcare provider?
- How will you work with the parent(s)/childcare provider to plan for using the strategy in the time prior to your next session?