

Video Commentary

This video shows Chris, a teacher, working with Bailey, an 11 year old with complex epilepsy (hence the protective helmet) and a diagnosis of autism. Assessment in relation to the p-scales shows that Bailey is at about p-level 2i for speaking and listening.

The video is just part of a 20-minute session during which Chris was trying to establish Bailey's preferences for objects but also trying to engage him in a range of activities. Bailey has a limited range of favoured activities but these can vary from day to day as does his general alertness due to his epilepsy.

Chris begins by trying to engage Bailey in a known preferred activity, spinning a plate, and calling his name to attract his attention. When Bailey is spinning his plate, Chris checks whether he will refocus on a second object that she introduces – see Milestone 18 in the Routes for Learning assessment booklet. Bailey is clearly more interested in spinning his plates. Surprisingly, Bailey does not search for either item when they are covered with a cloth while he is watching.

It could be that Bailey does not have a concept of object permanence or it could be that he believes that Chris does not want him to have it. At any rate, he does not search for the items and starts a bout of 'gasping' and rolling his head. He does not retrieve the object even when Chris partly uncovers it. Rather he continues gasping and gets up and wanders.